Vivacom Adopts Cisco ACI Solution for Data Center Automation to Meet Future Challenges
On the Road to Becoming an Agile Operator

Bulgarian Telecommunications Company provides fixed and mobile communications and TV services under the Vivacom brand in Bulgaria. In recent years, the service provider has placed an enhanced focus on provisioning integrated fixed and mobile packages and solutions to both private and business customers. It also offers data network services, IaaS, and various network-related ICT solutions.

In 2017 the service provider launched a major project to upgrade its data center network. Its ambition was to modernize and simplify the existing infrastructure, ultimately enabling a greater level of automation to support future business opportunities. The original data center network, which was designed and installed by Cisco in 2005, is split over two locations around 400 kilometers apart to make sure of a full level of redundancy. The excellent performance and stability of the data center to date led Vivacom to choose Cisco, again, for the upgrade.

Essentially, Vivacom wanted to facilitate a new way of working that would make it much easier for its IT staff to deploy new applications. The plan included network function virtualization (NFV) and software-defined networking (SDN), critical technologies that help service providers operate more quickly and efficiently.

The goal was to achieve a faster time to market for projects that are developed in house, thereby making Vivacom a more agile operator. Automation, or the “softwarization” of the data center, was an essential part of the overall project.

Delivering Automation with a Cisco ACI solution

Vivacom trusted Cisco, as an innovative technology leader, to design a solution that would meet all of these requirements. Cisco, working closely with its local partner Telelink as well as Vivacom, decided it could fulfill this remit with Cisco ACI.

Cisco ACI is a holistic architecture with centralized automation and policy-driven application profiles. It delivers software flexibility with the scalability of hardware performance. Vivacom deployed Cisco Nexus 9000 Series as fabric switches and Cisco Nexus 7000 Series as DCI switches. Other elements of the Cisco ACI include:

- Centralized policy management and Cisco Application Policy Infrastructure Controller (APIC)
- Cisco Application Virtual Switch (AVS) for the virtual network edge
- Software and hardware innovations
- Integrated physical and virtual infrastructure

Results

- Simplified automation using an application-driven policy model
- Centralized management, providing open software flexibility for DevOps teams and ecosystem
- Cloud-ready environment using Cisco HyperFlex™ technology

For More Information: about Cisco Service Provider, visit [www.cisco.com/go/sp](http://www.cisco.com/go/sp)
Roadmap: En Route to the Cloud

The benefits to Vivacom of a Cisco ACI data center deployment are manifold, because it ultimately supports the operator’s transformation into a digital service provider with the agility to launch services quickly and efficiently.

Cisco ACI is designed to increase IT efficiency, reduce operational costs, improve scalability for future growth, and free up IT staff time to better serve customers. It also provides a new SDN approach to solve common challenges for service providers with unified control of both physical and virtual environments, enhanced security, and policy-based automation. As a result, Vivacom will be able to deliver new customer services to market much more rapidly.

“The automation of our data center operations is a central part of our digital roadmap. It will help us keep our established position as an agile service provider, giving us a further competitive edge in the Bulgarian telecommunications market. Cisco ACI facilitates faster time to market in an efficient way and will ultimately facilitate our private cloud development and cohesion with public cloud,” said Svetoslav Nanchev, Senior Manager Infrastructure at Vivacom.

Indeed, Vivacom is also now in a position to deploy Cisco HyperFlex technology to support its multicloud strategy. HyperFlex provides an adaptive platform that powers any application anywhere with the simplicity of hyperconverged infrastructure.

For Vivacom, innovations such as these are part of its digital service provider strategy, enabling it to introduce more customers to connected devices, smart cities, communication without borders, and much more.

Products and Services

Working in partnership with local partner Telelink, Cisco delivered:

- **Cisco® Application Centric Infrastructure (Cisco ACI™), a holistic architecture with centralized automation and policy-driven application profiles**
- **Fabric switches: Cisco Nexus® 9000 Series**
- **Data center interconnect (DCI) switches: Cisco Nexus 7000 Series**

For More Information: about Cisco Service Provider, visit [www.cisco.com/go/sp](http://www.cisco.com/go/sp)