



Biotechnology Leader Builds Robust Data Warehouse

The company engaged Data Center Services to plan and design an agile, resilient data center architecture

Case Study

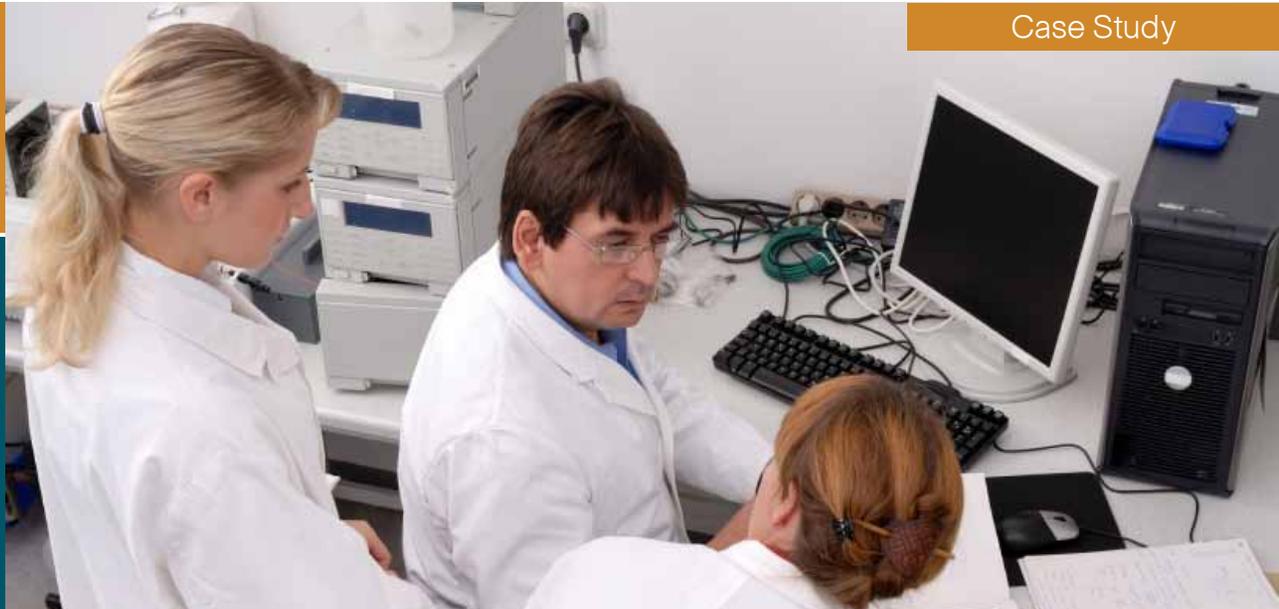
Customer Name: A Biotechnology Company
Industry: Healthcare
Location: North America
Company Size: 3000 employees

Business Impact

- Accelerated time to refresh business data from seven to two hours
- Increased business agility by presenting more recent data to executives
- Built a new data warehouse platform in a few weeks

Services Used

- Data Center Planning and Design Services



Business Challenge

When two biotechnology companies merged, the IT department had only a few weeks to build a more robust infrastructure for its data warehouse, which now contained 1.5 terabytes of financial and sales information. The data warehouse feeds the executive dashboard that managers consult for the previous day's business performance indicators. The compute-intensive application relies on 20 servers accessing a storage area network (SAN), so the inter-server connection must provide high performance and low latency.

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Senior Network Architect
A North American Biotechnology Company

Solution and Benefits

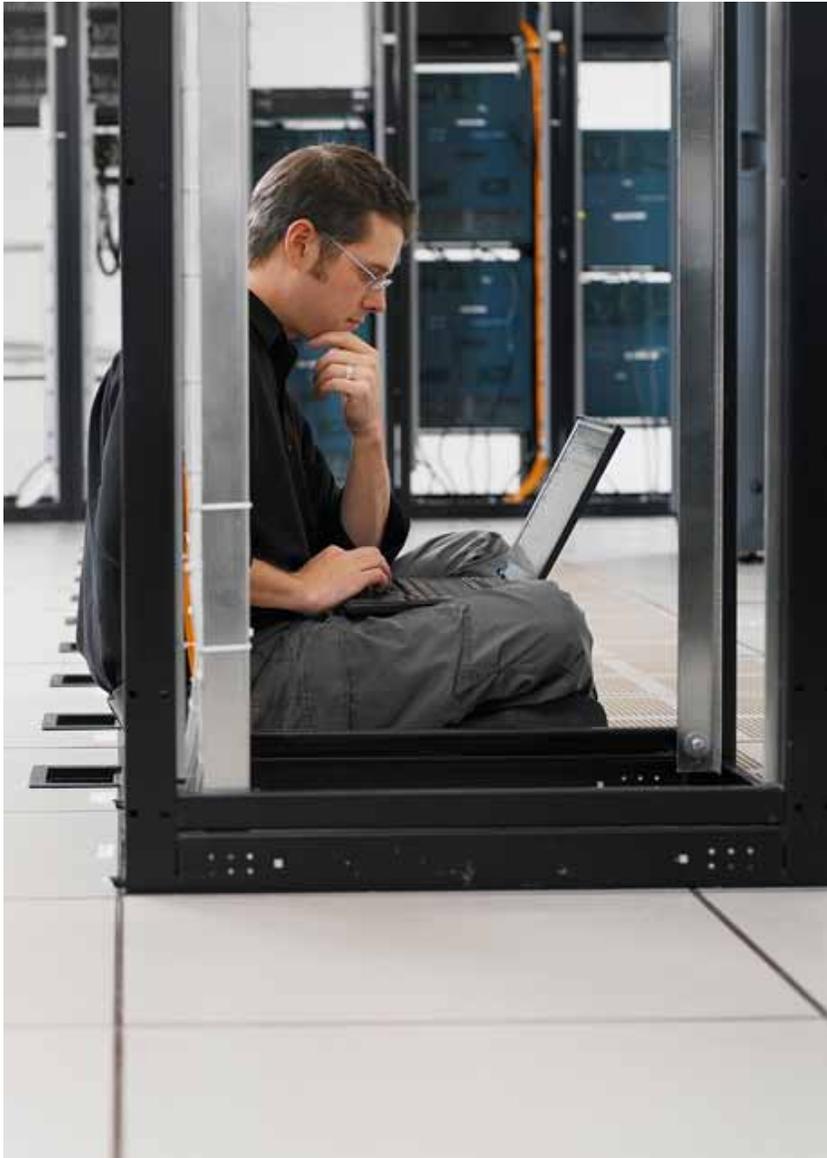
After evaluating three solutions, the company selected the Cisco® Nexus® 5020 Switch. According to the system architect, "The Cisco Nexus 5020 met our requirements for high performance, low latency, ease of implementation and management, and price."

To ensure that the combined data warehouse would be ready on schedule, the company engaged Cisco Advanced Services to provide Data Center Planning and Design Services. Working from the company's business requirements and server specifications, Cisco network engineers developed validated configuration templates for the Cisco Nexus 5020 Switches. A senior network architect for the company says, "Cisco Advanced Services helped us integrate the Cisco Nexus switch into our roadmap. They enabled us take full advantage of the NX-OS and save time by starting with a validated design."



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Cisco Services also provided training sessions for the IT support team and data warehouse application team. The validated switch configurations and training from Cisco Advanced Services enabled the company to meet its goals:

- **On-time deployment:** Using validated switch configurations avoided time-consuming trial and error.
- **Minimal training:** Staff were able to use the NX-OS with little training because of its similarities to the Cisco IOS® Software. Cisco Advanced Services explained the differences in a one-day training session.
- **Earlier availability of previous day's business metrics:** The Cisco Nexus 5020 Switch accelerated daily analysis of business information from seven hours to two, helping finance and marketing executives make decisions based on more current information.
- **Low latency:** The rapid refresh is made possible by the low latency of Cisco Nexus 5020 switches, which the IT department confirmed after rigorous testing.
- **Simplified cabling:** The front-to-back airflow in Cisco Nexus 5020 Switches supports the hot-aisle/cold-aisle layout in the data center. Rear-facing server ports eliminate the need to thread cable from the front to the back of the servers.

The next step is working with Cisco Services to take advantage of Cisco Nexus switches for virtualization, further reducing costs. One plan is to use the Cisco Nexus 1000V, a software-based switch that resides on servers.

For more information about Cisco Data Center Services, visit:

www.cisco.com/go/dcservices

For more information about the Cisco Nexus Switch Family, visit:

www.cisco.com/go/nexus