

ARDS BOROUGH COUNCIL

Government Agency Supports Server Consolidation and IT Efficiency Using Expand Accelerators



IN SUMMARY

- Application performance optimised
- Improved remote user experience bringing users in virtual proximity of applications
- Simplified management and centralised back up of servers to central datacentre
- Supported consolidation project
- Increased IT efficiency and continuity across the business

TECHNICAL OVERVIEW

- Compression and acceleration techniques led to application acceleration of up to 2000% over all applications operated by the business
- Foundation to consolidate print servers and enable true server consolidation

PROFILE

Ards Borough Council in County Down is one of 26 local authorities in Northern Ireland, administering an area of approximately 140 square miles with a population of 74,000. Twenty three councillors are elected to represent the people of Ards. The Council performs a host of diverse functions, ranging from street cleaning and refuse collection to operating a retail craft outlet and public aquarium.

THE CHALLENGES

Ards Council has nine offices within its boundaries including Leisure Centres, Tourist Offices and an Arts Centre where employees use data that is stored locally, in addition to accessing centralised applications in the datacentre such as Lotus Domino and Microsoft SQL over the WAN.

Each remote office is self contained and responsible for its own data such as Powerpoint, Excel and general day-to-day files and documents required in its line of business. The council relied on local, non-technical office staff to conduct daily back-ups, which frequently did not happen.

To overcome this, the Council is consolidating servers back to the datacentre to centralise back up and simplify management. To support the consolidation project, Ards Council required a solution that could optimise application performance on the WAN and guarantee the remote user experience.

“Expand provides impressive levels of compression and peaks of acceleration up to 2,000%.”

Tim Smyth, Ards Council IT Section

THE SOLUTION

Ards Council evaluated WAN Optimisation technology from Expand Networks and Riverbed and selected Expand Networks for its ability to optimise the WAN and accelerate all business critical applications.

Ards Council implemented one Expand 6930 series Accelerator within the main

APPLICATION

- Lotus Domino
- Microsoft SQL

datacentre environment, and four 4930 series Accelerators for the remote offices of the Council. With minimum impact to the Council's existing networking infrastructure, the Expand technology is delivering, on average, application and data acceleration of 200%, peaking up to 2,000%.

Seamlessly deployed, the integrated solution from Expand Networks is enabling Ards Council to compress and accelerate all traffic over the WAN, bring users into virtual proximity of applications, successfully support the server consolidation project and achieve the aim of increased IT efficiency.

The 6930 Expand Accelerator is providing Ards Council with up to 10Mbps of compression, up to 100Mbps of optimisation and up to 45Mbps of acceleration for the central datacentre. The branch offices of Ards Council are benefitting from up to 6Mbps of compression 45Mbps of optimisation from Expand's 4930 series.

THE RESULTS

Following a successful implementation, Expand's integrated WAN Optimisation technology is dramatically increasing the performance of all business critical applications for remote users at Ards Council.

Tim Smyth, Ards Council IT Section, highlights, "Expand provides impressive levels of compression and peaks of acceleration up to 2,000%. That has significantly improved access to not just the consolidated applications, but all applications, particularly our line of business communications. Users have said it feels LAN-like and as a result are more productive."

Benefits for the council from deploying Expand WAN Optimisation technology have extended beyond the acceleration of business critical applications into other areas. "The Expand technology offers many more benefits than other WAN Optimisation vendors," said Smyth. "It will also be used to consolidate our remote print services to further increase IT efficiency."

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