

CAT GROUP

Expand Networks Implements a WAFS Solution with SAP and Oracle Acceleration Across 50 of CAT Group's Remote Sites



CAT GROUP

IN SUMMARY

- CAT Group had to renew all remote offices file servers and start studying WAFS
- Expand Networks was chosen for its powerful branch office in a box serverless WAFS solution, outstanding support and excellent response time
- 48 remote branch offices have been implemented with Expand WAFS appliances, plus 2 appliances at Paris DC
- The central servers remote access is accelerated 8 to 10 times faster, and the Oracle and SAP applications are accelerated about 600% over the WAN.

APPLICATIONS

- Oracle Acceleration
- SAP Acceleration
- Microsoft Acceleration
- WAFS server Consolidation, including QoS layer 7

PROFILE

CAT Group is a leading automotive logistics company, with 130 subsidiaries in European and Latin American countries. The CAT Group is organized around two divisions: CAT Vehicle Logistics, organizing the physical and administrative shipments of several car manufacturers' vehicles (Renault, Nissan, Ford, Volvo, Kia, etc.) and CAT Cargo Logistics, handling the worldwide shipments of the various car manufacturers' parts and accessories. CAT Group has over 2600 employees around the world. The IT infrastructure is outsourced in EDS France, and managed by an IT team consisting of 8 people in CAT Group's Headquarters in Paris whereby IT applications are internally managed.

THE CHALLENGES

At the end of 2006, CAT Group recognized the need to completely renew its 5-year-old servers in its remote offices (email and Microsoft remote File servers). Jean Pierre Guillin, CIO of CAT Group, looked at two different technical solutions in order to achieve this. One option was to buy new local file servers for the remote European subsidiaries, and the second, was to consolidate all servers in an EDS datacenter in Paris through WAFS appliances. In both cases, the remote users needed to have consistent or improved application performances on SAP and Microsoft Office software without having to increase WAN bandwidth. Consequently, the CAT Group evaluated the pros and cons of the WAFS technology, studying Expand WAFS and SAP and Exchange acceleration in parallel with Riverbed and BlueCoat products.

“ When we started the project, it was not easy to identify the best WAFS manufacturers, because WAFS technology was in its early stages. After referring to the Gartner's group Magic Quadrant, we selected the main WAN optimization leaders for our tests, and chose the one with the most powerful solution. ”

Jean-Pierre Guillin, CIO Groupe CAT

TECHNICAL OVERVIEW

- Expand supports large-scale remote office server consolidation projects
- Bandwidth of branch office links fully optimized (Qos layer 7)
- Business continuity during WAN link outages (WAN out option)
- Reduced operating complexity and costs reduction due to centralization
- Truly suppress remote print, DHCP, DNS and file servers on remote offices (virtual server package)

WEB LINKS

- Learn about our solutions
www.expand.com/solutions.aspx
- Learn about our products
www.expand.com/products.aspx
- Learn about our WAN Monitoring Tool
www.expand.com/wan-tool.aspx

THE SOLUTION

During the French Storage Expo show in November 2006, CAT's IT department took the decision to centralize its remote office file servers in Paris and deploy 40 Expand WAFS and application acceleration appliances. CAT chose Expand Networks' WAFS solution, as it was the more powerful solution, and the only one that remained identical, whatever the remote office size. Expand's support and better response times have meant that today, 48 remote branches have been equipped with Expand WAFS solution.

THE RESULTS

Today, remote server access is accelerated by up to 8 to 10 times compared to the old local remote offices server infrastructure, and the Oracle and SAP applications are accelerated by a 5 to 6 ratio over the WAN. From now on, MS-Office, File and email servers are contained in 30 Central blade servers in the EDS Paris datacenter against 90 dispersed remote offices servers before implementing Expand appliances. The deployment was totally transparent within the MPLS IP cloud, and in fact, some users, surprised by the more rapid access to the remote file servers and by faster SAP and Oracle application response times, have contacted EDS France to question the reasoning behind such a change in application behavior.

LEARN MORE

Some of the best-known names in financial services, manufacturing, retail, health care, as well as leading government agencies and the military, rely on Expand Networks for optimized network infrastructures and superior applications performance.

For more information on how Expand solutions can benefit your company, contact your local Expand representative today or visit us at www.expand.com.