Consolidated Minerals Deploys Expand to Increase Application Response Times Across Network to Remote Offices

Profile

Consolidated Minerals is an independent West Australian public company whose principle operations are the exploration, mining, processing and exporting of high grade mangaese and chromite ores from Western Australia to markets in Asia and Europe.

The company's two main projects are the Woodie Woodie Mangaese Project and the Coobina Chromite Project; both are located in the remote Pilbara region of Australia.

Applications

Http, Https, Pop, SMTP, Telnet and Remote Desk Top Applications

CONSOLIDATED MINERALS LIMITED

The Challenges

Consolidated Minerals Head office is located in Perth, Australia – 1,300km from the Woodie Woodie Project site and 1,000km from the Coobina Project Site. Due the remoteness of the project sites, CSM is not able to access ISDN or fibre infrastructure and is dependent on satellite communications to network the main project sites with the head office. The CSM network has up to 100 users and provides the infrastructure necessary to support administrative tasks for the main mine sites. The network is used for Internet applications, E-mail, Remote Desktop and Telnet. The most important is Telnet, a purchasing application which is used to create, manage and track purchasing for mine sites. CSM faced the challenge of a lack of bandwidth and "real-time" application responsiveness. But increasing bandwidth over satellite links is very expensive, so CSM needed to find a more cost-effective option to improve network performance.

"We are dependent on satellite links for our network to function, but when we looked at increasing bandwidth over these links it was too expensive. Expand is affordable, works brilliantly with our satellite network and enables us to get more bandwidth out of our existing network arrangements."

- Gabriel Van, IT Support Officer for CSM

The Solution

The CSM business case for Expand was based on achieving a minimum 200% increase in bandwidth. Proof of concept testing exceeded customer expectations when it produced a 300-400% increase in bandwidth and demonstrated Expand's ability to perform effectively over satellite links to remote sites.

CSM installed two Expand 4820 Accelerator devices on their network, one at the headquarters and one at the remote mine site in Coobina. CSM also chose to utilize Expand's QoS feature to improve responsiveness of "real-time" applications such as Telnet and remote desktop applications, which are critical to their business operations.

The Results

"After installing the Expand units, we could identify which applications or protocols are the most active via in-built reporting, we could also prioritize applications via QoS and reduce network traffic," says Gabrial Van, CSM IT Support Officer. "Overall, the Expand Accelerators attained a 98% average improvement in network performance"

The Expand technology enabled CSM to avoid costly bandwidth upgrades and improve "real-time" responsiveness for business critical applications by dramatically boosting capacity of the company's satellite network.

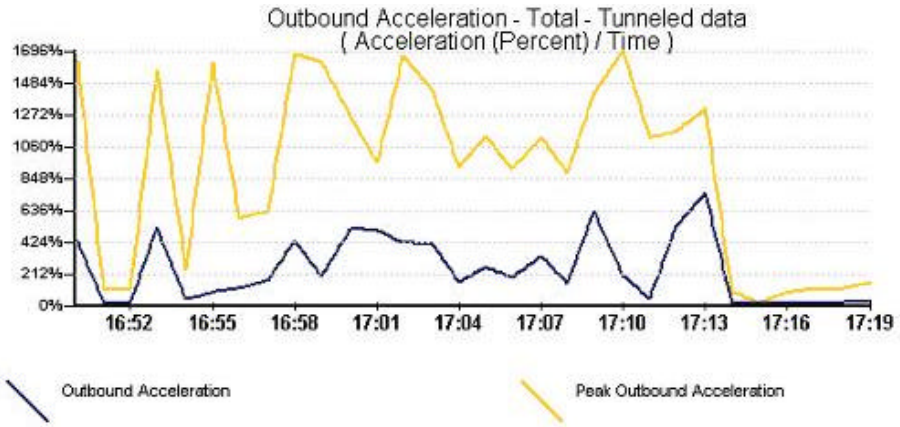
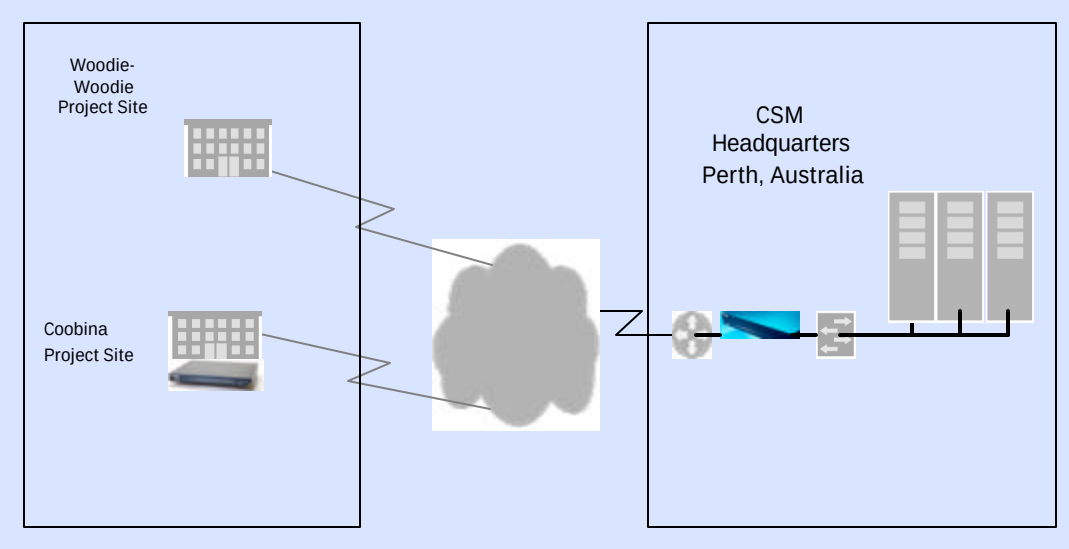


Fig. 1

The diagram to the right illustrates sample Accelerator deployments



Expand Networks
103 Eisenhower Parkway
Roseland, NJ 07068 USA

TEL +1.888.892.1250
+1.973.618.9000
FAX +1.973.618.9254
www.expand.com