



ENABLE THE NETWORK. POWER THE USER.



Corobrik Deploys Expand Networks to Support Migration to Web-Based Applications

Profile

Corobrik is a major manufacturer, distributor and exporter of bricks and allied building products. Established in 1902, Corobrik products have been used to construct houses, hotels, shopping centres, office parks, factories, hospitals and schools across South Africa.

Today Corobrik employs over 2,000 people at more than 40 locations in South Africa, and is the largest company of its kind on the entire continent.

The Challenges

Corobrik is highly reliant on its IT infrastructure to coordinate and implement complex building projects, and realised that a move away from JD Edwards thin-client servers toward JD Edwards' web-based OneWorld application interface was essential in order to improve productivity and ensure the future growth and competitiveness of the business.

A migration project served Corobrik's best interests, but from the outset it was clear that – owing to the low availability of broadband in South Africa - the cost of upgrading WAN bandwidth to the requisite levels made it too prohibitive to be a real consideration.

As such, the strain already placed on Corobrik's low speed 64Kbps WAN posed a problem to application performance for remote users, and this would be compounded even further as the company's plans included moving all other remaining applications to web-based solutions over time.



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Applications

JD Edwards, other legacy applications

In Summary

- >> Network and application performance massively accelerated despite no bandwidth upgrades available
- >> Smooth transition to critical web-based applications across 40+ nationwide branch offices
- >> Rapid ROI – savings set to outweigh costs in less than one year
- >> Solid, secure platform for future migration plans
- >> Ease of installation

The Solution

The nature and growing size of the business made it critical to enable fast access to applications in order to coordinate operations across all its 40+ sites. Corobrik needed a solution that was cost effective, straightforward to implement, and future proofed to enable seamless migration to other types of network architectures. Dimension Data South Africa - a local Expand channel partner - recommended and deployed Expand technology to ensure optimal network performance, user productivity and business continuity.

Expand's Compass platform is a key enabler of web-based application migration projects, allowing businesses to reap the full benefits of web services by accelerating the performance of web applications to encourage user adoption and satisfaction, while simultaneously removing the cost of upgrading WAN links.

The Results

Since implementing the solution, Corobrik has experienced huge performance benefits averaging 400% acceleration increases with peaks of 1500%, witnessing a drastic improvement in application response times throughout the network, which in turn has provided increased scope for productivity and competitiveness. Moreover, Expand's technology has enabled Corobrik to realise the cost savings of a web-based applications migration almost immediately.

"Compass is an open multi-service platform that provides enterprises with a solid framework to address today's key business drivers and resolve the challenges of their strategic IT initiatives," said Adam Davison, VP Sales EMEA, Expand Networks. "Expand has been integral in enabling Corobrik a successful migration to web based applications. The company expects to achieve ROI within 12 months and use this implementation as the catalyst for a future MPLS network migration."

Technical overview

- >> 42 sites with 2000 users
- >> Use JD Edwards One World and Novel Groupwise
- >> SCPS Acceleration on Satellite sites
- >> Enhanced network capacity - up to 800% more users per 64Kbps connection
- >> Graphic user interface & reporting
- >> Disaster recovery replication

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