

# DARLINGTON BUILDING SOCIETY INVESTS IN EXPAND NETWORKS TO SUPPORT MPLS INVESTMENT



## APPLICATIONS

- *Tietoenator Summit*
- *Tietoenator Activate*
- *Microsoft Excel*
- *Microsoft Word*

## IN SUMMARY

- Mitigated the negative effects of MPLS network
- Safeguarded investment in MPLS network
- Supported disaster recovery with accelerated network back up
- Acceleration of all business applications
- Network operations increased by up to 2000%
- Increased business critical application response times
- Network capacity increased by 350%

## PROFILE

Established in 1856, Darlington Building Society is a provider of personal financial services, operating from 13 full branches, a mortgage shop and 3 community branches. Darlington employs 150 staff and has total assets under management exceeding £700m.

It administers over 120,000 accounts on behalf of members and customers and in the last financial year, its gross mortgage lending reached a record £158m.

## CHALLENGE

Due to the dispersed nature of its branches, Darlington Building Society made a significant investment in a new MPLS network to provide more control over shared resources and to form the foundation of its disaster recovery strategy. However, the migration to MPLS didn't run as smoothly as expected. Darlington Building Society experienced significant problems with specific financial and mortgage applications such as Tietoenator's Summit and Activate, and other applications including Microsoft Excel and Word underperformed in the new MPLS environment.



**With the introduction of the MPLS network, we discovered that applications were running slower than with our previous 256k kilostream links and business efficiency was being affected.**

- Paul Gillson, Computer Development Manager, Darlington Building Society

## SOLUTION

After evaluating products from Expand and Packeteer in the MPLS environment, Darlington Building Society selected the Expand Compass platform for its superior ability to accelerate all applications and safeguard the investment in MPLS.

ExpandView management tools were also chosen for effective and simple deployment and in addition, Expand's transparency mode would enable QoS to remain in place to allow the Society the full use of its MPLS provider's services.

## WEB LINKS

- Learn about our solutions  
[www.expand.com/solutions.aspx](http://www.expand.com/solutions.aspx)
- Learn about our products  
[www.expand.com/products.aspx](http://www.expand.com/products.aspx)
- Learn about our WAN Monitoring Tool  
[www.expand.com/wan-tool.aspx](http://www.expand.com/wan-tool.aspx)

## BENEFITS

With the deployment of the Expand Compass platform, the integrated WAN Optimisation capabilities of compression and acceleration has significantly improved the reliability and response times of all the applications for Darlington Building Society.

Byte level caching features have increased network capacity by 350% and the average acceleration rate is 250% with peaks of up to 2000%. As a result, full system and network back up is now concluded 20 hours faster than previously, greatly easing the disaster recovery process.

“Expand has allowed us to protect the investment in MPLS and control the network more effectively,” continued Paul Gillson. “The Expand Compass platform has helped us to cope with network demands and conduct our business more professionally.”