

EXPAND OPTIMIZES MPLS NETWORK AND PROVIDES FOUNDATION FOR SERVER BASED COMPUTING PROJECT AT HILL MCGLYNN

IN SUMMARY

- Underwritten the success of thin client computing strategy
- Marked improvement in performance of Terminal Services
- Optimized MPLS network enabled heightened performance of all applications
- Eradicated previous application delays
- Dramatically enhanced remote user productivity
- Provided platform for future strategic initiatives

TECHNICAL OVERVIEW

- Deployed 6940s, 6910s and 4920s for remote sites
- Central site units deployed with redundancy
- Compression/byte-level caching to solve bandwidth congestion issues
- Acceleration to address latency issues
- ExpandView deployed to centrally manage, configure and report on applications
- QoS setup to ensure Terminal Services get the appropriate level of resources as required

PROFILE

Hill McGlynn is one of the UK's leading construction recruitment specialists supply permanent and freelance construction personnel throughout the UK and overseas. With over 30 years experience, Hill McGlynn employ over 350 staff throughout the world and currently have office locations in the UK and additional overseas operations in Australia and the Middle East.

THE CHALLENGES

Operating in an MPLS environment for WAN connectivity between its headquarters and 14 remote locations in the UK, Hill McGlynn initiated a server based computing project running Microsoft Terminal Services. As the business grew, these applications started to suffer from significant performance problems caused by latency, congestion and a lack of QoS which needed to be addressed.

“In order to simplify our infrastructure, we had implemented a thin client infrastructure across the company but with the vagaries of the WAN, we were faced with the challenge of trying to manage the application performance of Terminal Services,” said Patrick Rovetto, IT Services Manager, Hill McGlynn.



Using the Compass platform has eradicated the strain on the network and the previous application delays. It has enabled our business critical applications to perform consistently to their potential and our remote users to work effectively again.

- Patrick Rovetto, IT Services Manager, Hill McGlynn

THE SOLUTION

Following a recommendation from Softcat UK plc, a leading supplier of IT solutions to the UK Enterprise sector, Expand Networks' Compass was chosen as the unique platform to improve the performance of Terminal Services and optimize the MPLS network.

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

“There are a number of vendor solutions in the market but it was only the integrated technologies that make up the Expand Compass platform that could address our particular requirements and become a critical enabler of the SBC project,” recalled Patrick Rovetto.

The Compass platform had an immediate impact on the application performance of the Terminal Services. QoS techniques prioritized the server-based applications, ensuring they were supported by the requisite bandwidth and protected from congestion with acceleration techniques used to overcome latency. The MPLS network was able to be optimized using Expand’s Transparency Mode that allows traditional WAN optimization to coexist with MPLS differentiated services and the realization of heightened performance of the applications and productivity for users.

THE RESULTS

With Compass deployed the performance of all applications running on the Hill McGlynn network including Microsoft Exchange email and Microsoft SQL were significantly improved with data compression of over 60% achieved and application acceleration delivery increased over 190%.

“Using the Compass platform has eradicated the strain on the network and the previous application delays. It has enabled our business critical applications to perform consistently to their potential and our remote users to work effectively again,” commented Patrick Rovetto. “Expand has demonstrated the critical value it can add to strategic IT projects and its Compass platform will play a key role to supporting our planned company VoIP rollout and potential migration to Citrix.”

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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.

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