

KINGSPAN ENVIRONMENTAL

Expand Networks Implements WAN Optimization and WAFS for Server Consolidation



IN SUMMARY

- User access to business critical Citrix applications is fast, reliable and consistent
- Significant gains in application performance
- Latency and congestion successfully mitigated without costly bandwidth upgrades.
- WAFS are enabling branch offices to access and work on centrally held files as if on the local server

TECHNICAL OVERVIEW

- Supported successful, largescale server consolidation project
- Fully optimized the bandwidth of branch office links
- Deployed 2800, 4800, 4920 & 6940 accelerators across 14 sites
- Initial deployment of devices took only 1-2 hours per site
- Deployed Expand View to centrally manage, configure, report etc.

PROFILE

A division of Kingspan Group Plc, Kingspan Environmental produces a range of products for the safe storage of oil, rainwater recovery, recycling of waste, and solutions for the treatment of off-mains sewage. Headquartered in Banbridge Co, Down, Kingspan Environmental boasts 1800 employees across its 35 European locations, with twenty-one manufacturing plants in the UK, Ireland, Poland and Denmark.

THE CHALLENGES

With so many remote locations across Europe, Kingspan Environmental embarked upon a server consolidation strategy to simplify its IT infrastructure, and reduce costs across the organisation. However, operating in a centralised environment also introduced a new set of challenges for Kingspan's remote offices. As business critical applications moved further away from its users, WAN connectivity to remote office sites struggled to cope with the increased demand the applications placed on the network; in particular, sensitive Citrix applications became dominated by more aggressive applications, causing congestion.

“ The cost and inefficiency of users not being able to access accurate data when they most needed it was becoming a serious concern. Rather than throwing unmanaged bandwidth at the problem, we turned to WAN Optimization to help manage the peaks in demand.

- Richard Gray, IT Manager, Kingspan Environmental

THE SOLUTION

Instead of looking consistently for costly WAN upgrades, Kingspan Environmental soon realised it needed a solution that would maximise the throughput of its existing WAN connections whilst also prioritizing Citrix traffic, in order to maintain a consistent level of service to its distributed offices. Kingspan Environmental implemented Expand Network's Compass Platform, in order to tackle the bandwidth and compression issues that had led to the decreased performance of its applications as Gray explains; "The compression capabilities of the platform quickly delivered the bandwidth increase we required, significantly improving throughput on our WAN. In addition, the QoS technology prioritized the server-based applications, protecting our business critical Citrix applications from congestion, whilst the acceleration techniques overcame any latency."

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 RESULTS

With Compass deployed, latency and congestion has been reduced significantly, resulting in improvements in application performance, whilst the QoS function ensures the critical Citrix applications are prioritized and always available. The great success of the Compass platform in addressing application performance issues heightened Kingspan's interest in exploring the Wide Area File Services (WAFS) capability of the platform. Gray explains:

"The server consolidation project was supported by the WAN Optimization and management technologies of Expand, but we soon had to draw our attention to file sharing. It transpired that not everyone could work in a server based computing environment –and increasingly large amounts of data, such as bulky Excel financial packs were being pushed across remote sites using large email attachments as the vehicle. The increased traffic was causing WAN links to break down, decreasing productivity and exacerbating user frustration across the distributed offices."

As the industry's most proficient platform for addressing the integrated WAFS and WAN Optimization needs of today's dispersed organisations, Expand's multiservice capabilities were perfectly suited to meet Kingspan's additional requirements.

Gray continues, "Having already experienced the benefits of the Expand platform, we knew the integrated multiple technologies would enable us to extend the Compass capability without disruption and without having to fork out for additional hardware. As such, we turned to Expand to deploy the additional functionality of WAFS to enable branch offices to access and work on centrally held files as if on the local server."

Kingspan now operates in a stable environment with an uncompromised end user experience where fast, reliable and secure access to business critical data is guaranteed, significantly improving remote office user productivity.

"Expand has kept our WAN costs down because we have been able to hold off on what we thought were inevitable costly WAN upgrades," Gray explains. "The additional WAFS feature is allowing our disparate operations to collaborate with shared data as though they were on the same LAN, meaning the user experience is the same whether working from head office or in a remote office 100 miles away."

Kingspan has worked closely with Expand and its channel partners to ensure implementation and configuration was properly planned and executed, in order to provide Kingspan Environmental with maximum utilisation of the Compass platform.

Gray concludes "The Expand Compass has become a standard component of our Infrastructure model, allowing us to maintain our strategy of consolidation and centralisation of IT resources. The integrated WAFS technology within Compass has enabled us to confidently centralise our data without impacting efficiency at remote office sites, and the integrated technologies that make up the Compass platform has given me an excellent level of control over how data moves around our WAN, addressing all our specific requirements with just one product."

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