

# EXPAND NETWORKS BRIDGES THE 'VIRTUALIZATION GAP' FOR PRAIRIE NORTH HEALTH REGION WITH 'FIRST CLASS' VDI PROJECT



## IN SUMMARY

- 250% increase in WAN capacity
- Significant savings in support and management costs
- Efficient acceleration of VDI protocols

## PROFILE

Prairie North Health Region (PNHR) is a regional health authority located in Saskatchewan, Canada. PNHR provides health services to over 74,000 citizens across 26 health facilities amidst a large geographic area.

## THE CHALLENGES

PNHR has over 1,000 remote PC's and laptops and operates two fully redundant datacenters, each running over 50 servers. Recently, PNHR was tasked with providing IT services for Keewatin Yatthe Health Region (KYHR). Located in Northwest Saskatchewan, KYHR administers a comprehensive and much needed health care delivery system for numerous northern towns and villages.

In light of the large geographical expanse and remote locations in KYHR, PNHR decided to centralize its datacenter services and deploy a VDI solution. Dwayne Lessner, Manager of IT operations at PHNR explains the challenges the project presented;

“Due to KYHR’s remote geography and limited IT resources available we decided on a desktop virtualization project in order to simplify IT support, deployment and management processes. However, we soon realized that bandwidth availability was a major hurdle with KYHR’s regional and medical staff having only access to T1 links resulting in WAN oversubscription and bandwidth contention.

“Upgrading these T1 links was not an option as bandwidth simply wasn’t available due to the remoteness of these northern locations. To compound this even further we had the impact of the increased pay load due to the VDI protocols serving the virtual desktops. We needed a solution that could both increase the capacity of the network and be able to accelerate the virtualized applications to the remote desktops.”

“ Expand’s VDI solution was easy to deploy and its support in integrating the solution into our existing WAN infrastructure was first class. Expand’s collaborative approach to this project was commendable, and its solution was a key enabler to the overall success of the project

- Dwayne Lessner, PNHR’s Manager of IT Operations

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## THE SOLUTION

PNHR deployed Expand Networks' Accelerator 6930's at the datacenter and its Accelerator 4930's at key remote locations. PNHR selected Expand's Accelerator range of WAN optimization devices for the ability to increase network capacity, accelerate virtualized desktop applications and deliver superior quality of service to ensure LAN-like performance to remote users.

Lessner explains, "Having looked at other solutions, we found that only Expand could effectively accelerate VDI traffic and deliver the quality of service levels we required for KYHRA. Expand's VDI solution was easy to deploy and their support in integrating the solution into our existing WAN infrastructure was first class."

## THE BENEFITS

The Expand solution was a key enabler to realizing the full potential of the virtualization project, safeguarding PNHR's investment, reducing total cost of ownership and accelerating ROI.

"Expand's collaborative approach to this project was commendable, and its solution was a key enabler to the overall success of the project giving us huge savings in support and management costs, delivering a 250% increase in WAN capacity and safeguarding our VDI investment," said Lessner.