

Expand Recruited to put the Spring Back into Application Performance

Profile

Established in 1990 Spring Group PLC is the largest technology staffing provider in the UK, with annual revenues of nearly £200 million. Providing recruitment and staffing related services internationally, Spring Group has a number of offices across Europe and boasts a wide range of high profile clients including Barclays, Jaguar, Land Rover and the NHS.

The Challenges

In a bid to improve productivity and in order to support the future growth of the company, Spring Group made the transition to web-based applications. However, this introduced a new set of challenges to its network. As its business critical applications moved further away from its users, WAN connectivity to remote office sites struggled to cope with the increased demand that its bandwidth hungry applications placed on the network. As a result, latency and congestion increased, and response times became slow causing productivity at remote site offices to suffer.



Critically, Expand provided us with a cost effective solution that is scalable according to business needs as we can easily reallocate the hardware in accordance to wherever the requirement may be. We are now able to deliver fast and reliable remote access to our business critical applications and can improve the performance at any site in just a few days notice rather than weeks.

Rob Anderson, Group Communications Manager, Spring Group

The Solution

After extensive testing alongside its competitor Riverbed Technology, Spring Group looked to Expand's Compass platform to provide a solution to the company's problems due to its superior acceleration and QoS capabilities.

Initially deployed at four remote locations that were experiencing the most difficulties, the integrated WAN optimization technology within the Compass

In Summary

- Increased business critical application response times
- QoS and Acceleration mitigated the negative effects of congestion and latency on the WAN
- Speed of network operations increased by up to 600%.
- Ability to reallocate hardware quickly and on demand
- Enhanced productivity at remote sites

Applications

- MS Exchange
- Domino
- Bond Adapt

Platform was implemented to enable Spring Group to immediately compress traffic flows across the WAN. The QoS techniques prioritized the mission critical applications, ensuring they were supported by the requisite bandwidth and protected from congestion, whilst acceleration techniques were used to overcome latency.

The Results

Since implementing Compass to support its web applications project, Spring Group has overcome its application performance issues, with remote offices now able to maximise productivity and efficiency.

With Compass deployed, the performance of the problematic applications over the WAN significantly improved, with an overall increase in the speed of the network operations as high as 600%.

The competition and dynamics within the recruitment industry demanded that Spring Group adopt an agile stance, enabling it to implement change quickly. Anderson explains;

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The company has an aggressive growth target over the next 12 months and into the future. As such, Spring Group is looking to extend the web-based application migration project, and is set to deploy further Compass Platforms at more of its 35 offices throughout the UK and Europe.

Technical Overview

- Supported transition to web-based applications
- Fully optimized the bandwidth of branch office links
- QoS set up to ensure appropriate applications get the correct level of support
- 6900 Accelerator deployed in Coventry (4M), 4900 Accelerators deployed in Edinburgh, Bristol and Oxford Street (256k).
- Temporary deployments in Birmingham and Leeds.

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