

Boligkontoret



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Challenge

The company needed to replace two aging networks with a cost-effective, modern converged IT platform.

Solution

- Brocade VDX 6730 Switches with FCoE Connectivity for SAN top of rack
- Brocade ICX 6450 Switches for access and distribution

Results

- Boosted application performance by up to 25 percent
- Simplified management through efficient design, automated features, and fewer devices and cables
- Supported wireless network, IP telephony, guest WiFi, and Internet access systems from a single network
- Achieved rapid deployment

Deploying the Next Generation of Power and Simplicity

Boligkontoret Danmark is one of Denmark's largest apartment rental organizations. The company manages approximately 32,000 homes across Denmark for a wide range of clients. Headquartered in Copenhagen, Boligkontoret Danmark recently started cooperating with another firm and moved into a new building.

Before the move, it made sense to converge the two separate IT infrastructures into one. A single infrastructure would enable the company to reduce the costs associated with separate infrastructures. It would simplify IT management, easing the burden on an experienced, but lean, IT team. For its new network, Boligkontoret Danmark wanted to take advantage of new advanced technologies and extend its lifespan to 10 years. At the same time, a new network had to be highly cost-effective.

The company also wanted to improve application performance. It currently has a Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) environment that serves hundreds of concurrent users in 15 offices across Denmark. Offices are connected over a Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) WAN. Boligkontoret Danmark's IT team wanted to boost application performance without having to replace the application itself.

With the impending move, Boligkontoret Danmark also needed to identify and deploy a new network solution quickly. After releasing a Request for Proposal, the company chose Klestrup Partners. Klestrup Partners' core competence is analyzing, designing, and deploying IT solutions that support and ensure the future of its customers' businesses.

Taking a Leap of Faith

"Boligkontoret Danmark evaluated proposals from a number of partners," said Mogens Mikkelsen, Chief Technology Officer of Klestrup Partners. "Other vendors proposed classic Ethernet and SAN infrastructures. We knew that those types of environments would be too complex, costly, and difficult to manage. Our client wasn't familiar with Brocade, so our proposal had to deliver above and beyond what they expected."

Klestrup Partners proposed a powerful, next-generation network based on a simplified design using Brocade VDX® 6730 Switches and Brocade ICX® 6450 Switches. The Brocade VDX 6730 Switches with Brocade VCS® Fabric technology are implemented as top-of-rack switches for the SAN and provide Ethernet storage connectivity. High-performance 10 GbE access ports and 40 GbE uplinks combine with low latency to boost application performance.

Brocade ICX 6450 Switches provide enterprise-class switching at an entry-level price. Built-in Power-over-Ethernet (PoE) and mobility features make it easy to support Boligkontoret Danmark's Aruba wireless network, IP telephony, guest WiFi, and Internet access systems. This high-powered solution dramatically simplifies wiring and cabling. Automated IP address and feature configuration saves time and further simplified deployment.

"Not knowing Brocade at the time, my first thought was 'don't buy it!'" laughed Henrik Skjoldlund, IT Manager for Boligkontoret Danmark. "Until I realized that global companies rely on Brocade. We quickly saw that Brocade delivered

the next-generation architecture, power, and cost-effectiveness we needed. And, we could do everything with the same infrastructure."

One Infrastructure for Everything

The Brocade VDX Switches reside in the data center, where they support multiple VMware hosts and connect to Brocade ICX 6450 Switches on each floor of the building for distribution and access. The Citrix VDI application is delivered from the data center across the network using the Brocade Switches' Fibre Channel over Ethernet (FCoE) capability. The entire deployment was completed with the help of Klestrup Partners in one month.

"With the Brocade solution, we also could deploy PoE for our Aruba wireless network at the same time," said Skjoldlund. "This was a great opportunity to obtain a complete solution from two vendors who work well together."

Boosting Application Performance

With the new network, Boligkontoret Danmark significantly boosted Citrix VDI application performance. "The application is now 25% faster than it was over the old network, and it provides great performance for hundreds of concurrent users," said Skjoldlund.

A More Efficient Model

The new network has fewer cables, devices, and power requirements than the old networks. The company easily powers its IP phones and wireless access points with same solution. When growth demands additional switching power, it's simple to add a Brocade 6450 switch where needed. And superior manageability enables Skjoldlund and his team to manage the network themselves.

The Model for the Future

The company plans to configure the Brocade VCS Fabric technology in their network soon. Brocade VCS Fabric technology is embedded in the Brocade VDX Switches. The technology will further simplify network management through zero-touch provisioning and support for virtualization, including VM-Aware Network Automation feature. Boligkontoret Danmark will be able to reap even more benefits from their VMware deployment without requiring additional management overhead.

"This deployment represents a better way to build networks," said Mikkelsen. "It was a tremendous opportunity to implement new technology that we normally only read about, and the Brocade switches delivered what they're supposed to deliver. Our customer achieved great results. And we enjoyed tremendous support from Brocade. We can count on Brocade."

For more information, visit www.brocade.com.

WHY BROCADE

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—Henrik Skjoldlund, IT Manager,
Boligkontoret Danmark

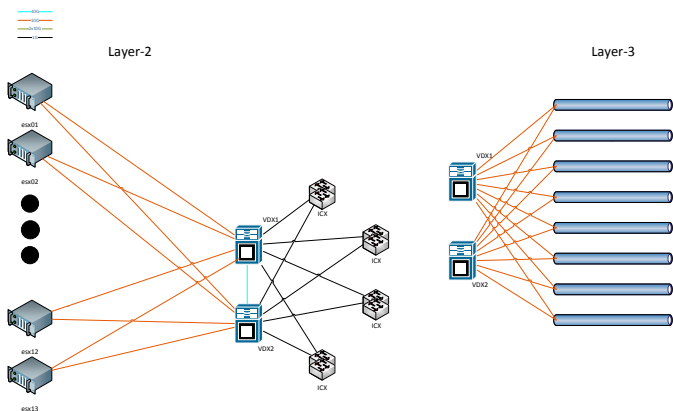


Figure 1: Brocade Solution for Headquarters and Remote Offices

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