

# Global IT Services Provider

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Challenge

Gain on-demand scalability and the ability to accommodate high-bandwidth virtualized applications and to segregate data and storage traffic

### Solution

Brocade VDX Switches and Brocade VCS Fabric

### Results

- Gained high availability and predictability for elastic cloud computing
- Successfully segregated traffic to simplify growth and configuration
- Optimized storage environment for high utilization and resiliency
- Avoided costs associated with purchasing additional backup infrastructure

## Brocade IP Storage Network Delivers High Availability and Predictability

Delivering high customer satisfaction by meeting challenging demands is why this global IT services provider is successful. A recent challenge this company faced was building a new data center to deliver hosted cloud services to customers. Within the data center, the storage team administers only the Fibre Channel storage network, but did not administer the IP network that supports the IP storage workloads. A new addition to the IP storage environment was the need to support a public-sector, revenue-generating transportation application. The application demands high storage network bandwidth for backing up large Oracle databases and the performance of this IP storage network was every bit as critical as its Fibre Channel SAN.

The storage team of the IT services provider decided that they wanted to own and operate the IP storage network to better ensure capacity and availability could be met, instead of having to rely on the LAN team for bandwidth and ports. They also wanted an integrated environment for handling backup tasks and sought to simplify storage management, improve resiliency, and reduce latency by implementing an Ethernet fabric network. The decision was made to use Brocade® VDX® Switches for their Ethernet fabric and to create a physically separated IP network to ensure their storage requirements could be met.

“We were familiar with Brocade SAN solutions and the benefits of a fabric environment,” says the company’s SAN administrator. “So we evaluated Brocade

IP storage solutions and were impressed with the low latency, manageability, and performance of the Brocade VDX switching family.”

### Outstanding Performance With Room to Grow

Today, the IT services provider’s IP storage network is managed by the storage team and based on Brocade VDX 6740 Switches. The Brocade VDX 6740 is an Ethernet fabric top-of-rack switch featuring 10 GbE ports with 40 GbE uplinks for high performance. It also supports ultra-low latency through wire-speed ports and automated hardware-based Inter-Switch Link (ISL) trunking. The Brocade VDX 6740 Switches simplify the storage network architecture and enable cloud computing with Brocade

VCS® Fabric technology. Automation features of the VCS fabric support the company's highly virtualized storage environment and simplify management without compromising performance and availability.

With current growth trends in mind, the IT services provider expects to expand the Brocade IP storage network using Brocade VDX 8770 Switches in the near future. The Brocade VDX 8770 will add capacity and utilize the Brocade VCS fabric to further enable elastic cloud computing.

### Successful Traffic Segregation

With a separate Brocade IP network in place, the IT services provider has physically segregated its storage and LAN traffic to ensure a high performance and predictable network for storage workloads. Multiple traffic paths between source and destination ensure high availability for storage traffic. In addition, the Brocade VDX Switches provide deep buffers for high load conditions, minimizing latency and packet drops to deliver reliable performance regardless of traffic loads. Now that the storage team manages each storage network themselves, they can add capacity as needed and configure the fabric to best meet business demands.

### Optimized for the Business

The Brocade VCS fabric technology is optimized for east-west traffic, which is predominant in modern data centers. Optimized east-west traffic management and multipathing delivers a flexible network that adapts easily to changing business conditions and traffic patterns. Its load-balanced multipath design, similar to Fibre Channel, delivers the utilization and resiliency that mission-critical workloads demand.

### Avoid Extra Cost

The decision to use Brocade's VDX switches powered by VCS Fabric technology allowed the IT services provider to avoid the costs of purchasing, maintaining, and supporting a completely dedicated backup infrastructure for the public-sector application. With a network infrastructure that is highly optimized for storage, backup can be achieved faster and more efficiently.

### Saved Time and Management Resources

With Brocade VCS fabric technology, a design leveraged from Brocade Fibre Channel SAN, the IT services provider gains optimum connectivity and availability through self-forming and self-healing capabilities. Auto-fabric

### WHY BROCADE

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—SAN Administrator

provisioning features save time and simplify operations. And at the same time, familiarity with Brocade Fibre Channel SAN solutions made the storage team's decision to deploy—and directly manage—the IP storage network an easy one.

For more information, visit [www.brocade.com](http://www.brocade.com).

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