BROCADE

Leading North American Bank

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Challenge
- Keep pace with business demands because of reliance on networking team for ports and provisioning

Solution
- Brocade VDX 6740 Switches
- Brocade VCS Fabric technology
- Brocade Network Advisor

Results
- Gained autonomous administrative control over IP storage switches for flexibility in addressing storage needs
- Implemented low-latency, high-performance network for mission-critical storage traffic
- Seamlessly extended network management solution, Brocade Network Advisor, to monitor new IP storage network's health and performance

Bank Segregates Storage for Newfound Flexibility

Like a growing number of organizations, a leading North American bank was operating its storage network over its general-purpose Ethernet data network, and the network team owned the ports for both LAN and storage ports. For the storage team however, this arrangement resulted in significant process latency. When more storage access ports were needed, they would often spend weeks coordinating with the network team to obtain them. With the rapidly growing number of applications and workloads that depend on storage, the storage team's inability to gain access to the Ethernet network ports created delays. The need to continue adding storage devices to keep pace with capacity demands was a growing concern.

Taking Control of Storage
As the storage team looked ahead, they knew that only increasing the storage network infrastructure would continue to result in further delays and disruptions. They needed greater control and flexibility to keep pace with growing business demands. Owning the storage network ports would give them more agility. As the team reviewed its options, it decided to segregate the data and storage networks and move to a dedicated IP storage solution.

Gaining a Flexible Fabric
The bank already utilized Brocade® block-based Fibre Channel SAN solutions and the storage team was familiar with the simplicity and robust nature of Brocade VCS® Fabric technology. In addition, they rely on Brocade Network Advisor and Brocade Fabric Vision technology for

simplified management and superior visibility across their Fibre Channel SANs. When the storage team approached Brocade about an IP storage solution, they were certain about one thing: they wanted the benefits of a fabric as opposed to a traditional network architecture.

The bank's storage team chose Brocade VDX® 6740 Switches for its new dedicated storage network. Brocade 6740 Switches are Ethernet top-of-rack switches featuring 10 GbE ports and 40 GbE uplinks for high performance with low latency. Purpose-built for storage, the new network also is based on Brocade VCS Fabric technology. Brocade VCS Fabrics deliver a multipath, non-blocking architecture that is optimized for low-latency, high-bandwidth IP storage traffic. Like Brocade Fibre Channel SAN fabrics, the VCS Fabric technology also

provides a highly automated, efficient, and resilient infrastructure to meet the rigorous demands of a storage environment.

"The Brocade VCS Fabric technology provides a robust network infrastructure ideally suited for dedicated IP storage environments, similar to our Fibre Channel fabric, which made the migration to Ethernet much easier," says a storage administrator for the bank. "We now take advantage of the automation, load-balancing and multipath architecture to handle our bursty storage traffic and to maximize link efficiency and resiliency. In addition, we like the ease of deployment and simplified management that Brocade VCS Fabric provides with zero-touch provisioning features and Brocade Network Advisor, the same management tool we use for SAN."

Newfound Agility and Low-latency Performance

With the dedicated Brocade IP storage network in place, the bank's storage team now has full control over storage capacity and provisioning. Instead of waiting weeks for a port to be supplied, the team can now scale capacity in minutes.

Furthermore, the team gains the benefits of a Brocade VCS Fabric that is optimized for mission-critical workloads. Auto discovery, self-provisioning, and self-healing capabilities save time for the storage team and optimize network uptime. The Brocade VDX Switches also feature ultra-low latency through wire-speed ports and deep buffers to efficiently handle traffic spikes and a topology designed with multiple traffic paths between source and destination improve network availability for mission-critical storage traffic.

The bank's storage team extended its existing Brocade Network Advisor solution to proactively manage end-to-end network health and performance of the new IP storage network. Administrators can quickly identify network issues with customizable dashboards and drill-down to isolate and fix problems. Continuous monitoring enables the team to optimize the network for the best performance. Brocade Network Advisor supports the entire Brocade IP and SAN portfolio for unified network visibility and control.

The Next Steps

The storage team anticipates expanding the IP storage network fairly quickly, as traffic continues to increase. And when they're ready, they won't have to wait on anyone.

For more information, visit www.brocade.com.

WHY BROCADE

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— Storage Administrator

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