

# Sligro Food Group

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In order to provide support to around 1200 virtual desktops, food wholesaler Sligro went in search of a switch platform which combined speed and powerful performance with reliability and ease of management. In the end, the company opted for Brocade's VCS technology to underpin its VDI network.

### Challenge

To seek out a solution for supporting around 1200 virtual desktops which require constant replication between the primary and secondary data center.

### Solution

Four Brocade VDX 6740 switches in one VCS cluster. VCS has been developed by Brocade to simplify the network architecture in virtualized data centers.

### Benefits

- Powerful 10 GbE performance
- Easy to manage thanks to VCS technology and direct VMware integration
- Can be easily integrated with chosen Nutanix hardware platform
- Can be managed as a single logical chassis

## Sligro Food Group supports VDI initiative with Brocade VCS Fabric technology

Sligro is a household name in the Dutch hotel and catering industry. The company serves business customers throughout the Netherlands via a network of 46 cash-and-carry outlets, nine wholesale delivery outlets and a product range extending to over 60,000 items. Sligro supplies customers with quality food, non-food and fresh products.

Sligro's 46 cash-and-carry stores operate at a regional level, each outlet offering a nationwide and complete range of products. This guarantees customers a powerful mix of premium brands and exclusive (private) labels. In addition, an elaborate regional network of nine delivery wholesale outlets enables Sligro to provide a streamlined delivery service for ordered goods. Likewise, 130 EMTÉ supermarkets form part of the Sligro concern.

### Centralization

All branches are supported from the head office in Veghel. In this way, the IT department can manage the central back office housed in two data centers located several kilometers from each other. "Centralization and standardization are important pillars of our model", explains Maurice van Veghel, IT manager at Sligro. "Adopting a centralized approach means that we can respond quickly to changes and keep an overview. That means we are always seeking out technology which is based on open standards."

### VDI

The Sligro Food Group has a workforce of almost 10,000 employees. Around 1200 of them have a fixed place of work with Office functionality and other applications available. For a long time Citrix was used to access the back office. Partly as a result of the end-of-support for Windows XP, Sligro started looking around for a new uniform desktop. After analyzing the possibilities, the company decided on a Virtual Desktop Infrastructure on the basis of VMware technology and hardware from Nutanix. For replication of the virtual desktops, Sligro went in search of a switch platform that was compatible with that of Nutanix and also offered a good price-quality ratio. "In whatever event, we had to opt for the 10 GbE switch", van Veghel adds. "What's more, for important requirements were powerful performance and ease of management."

### Why Brocade?

After some fact-finding, Sligro decided in favor of Brocade's technology for

supporting the VDI platform. The company implemented four Brocade VDX 6740 switches in one VCS cluster. VCS has been developed by Brocade, amongst other things to simplify the network architecture in virtualized data centers. According to Jeroen van Dijk, ICT Operations Manager at Sligro, this offers the company a number of benefits. "In the first place, these solutions provide us with state-of-the-art technology. When it comes to switches and virtualization, Brocade is at the forefront, which means the platform is future-proof. What's more, we can take advantage of the improved ease of management since it makes integration with VMware seamless. We can manage the virtual desktops and the network from a single console. Furthermore, the VCS technology provides the possibility of showing the various switches as a single system in the management environment. This simplifies its management. All in all, this smart technology from Brocade enables us to bring about savings for a more effective management."

## Implementation

Implementation of the VDI environment at Sligro went smoothly. "In practice, the learning curve for the new network equipment was quite gentle", admits van Dijk. "Of course, this has to do with the integration in VMware and the use of Automatic Migration of Port Profiles

(AMPP) for provisioning. As far as the desktops were concerned, whilst this project was indeed a strategic decision, it should also be seen as the next step in the ongoing roll-out of a x86 server environment. Looking at the network, the combination of Nutanix and VMware has a 'set-it-and-forget-it' character. That will have a positive impact on our operating costs."

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

## WHY BROCADE?

- State-of-the-art technology
- Greater ease of management
- Seamless integration with VMware (AMPP)
- Powerful performance
- Reliable platform
- Good price-quality ratio

### Corporate Headquarters

San Jose, CA USA  
T: +1-408-333-8000  
info@brocade.com

### European Headquarters

Geneva, Switzerland  
T: +41-22-799-56-40  
emea-info@brocade.com

### Asia Pacific Headquarters

Singapore  
T: +65-6538-4700  
apac-info@brocade.com



© 2015 Brocade Communications Systems, Inc. All Rights Reserved. 06/15 GA-SS-1994-00

ADX, Brocade, Brocade Assurance, the B-wing symbol, DCX, Fabric OS, HyperEdge, ICX, MLX, MyBrocade, OpenScript, The Effortless Network, VCS, VDX, Vplane, and Vyatta are registered trademarks, and Fabric Vision and vADX are trademarks of Brocade Communications Systems, Inc., in the United States and/or in other countries. Other brands, products, or service names mentioned may be trademarks of others.

Notice: This document is for informational purposes only and does not set forth any warranty, expressed or implied, concerning any equipment, equipment features, or service offered or to be offered by Brocade. Brocade reserves the right to make changes to this document at any time, without notice, and assumes no responsibility for its use. This information document describes features that may not be currently available. Contact a Brocade sales office for information on feature and product availability. Export of technical data contained in this document may require an export license from the United States government.

**BROCADE** 