

HealthMEDX



IP NETWORK

Brocade Gives HealthMEDX a Clean Bill of Network Health

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Challenge

Develop advanced software for healthcare providers more quickly and efficiently while keeping networking operations and capital expenses at a minimum

Solution

- Brocade FCX Series switches at the network core
- Brocade FastIron® WS Series switches for Power over Ethernet (PoE) and Voice over IP (VoIP) at the network edge
- Brocade Mobility Access Points for wireless connectivity
- Brocade Mobility Controllers for centralized wireless management

Results

- Realized return on investment in 14 months by migrating all IP traffic, including voice, to Brocade networking solutions
- Completed the network transition in less than six hours without any downtime or interruptions to users
- Secured the wireless network, enabling new security standards and preventing unauthorized user access
- Reduced the time needed to build and deploy new software packages to customers—a key competitive advantage

Healthcare technology is changing at a rapid pace, and applications must adapt to the new regulations and government mandates that are transitioning a paper-based, manual industry into the electronic age. Missouri-based HealthMEDX, the leading provider of software for long-term care, home health, and rehabilitation organizations, is helping its clients adapt to this new world by providing end-to-end support for their business operations.

“We target everything outside the walls of the hospital, and we have direct interfaces into the hospital,” says Chris Bingham, Vice President of Infrastructure at HealthMedX. “We are strategically focusing on the home healthcare nurse, the long-term care aide, the long-term nurse, the hospice, and the rehab center.”

HealthMEDX’s comprehensive solutions give these healthcare providers everything they need to automate their Customer Relationship Management (CRM), census, clinical electronic health record, and financial systems.

FINDING THE RIGHT TREATMENT

Being part of a dynamic industry means that HealthMEDX must know the needs of its clients and be able to immediately accommodate their requirements. “Our solution allows a single database and single instance of the product to be configured to support all the various care settings,” explains Bingham. “As a patient moves throughout the continuum of care, one patient record flows through the entire system.”

Based on positive experiences with Brocade® Storage Area Network (SAN) solutions, HealthMEDX was eager to explore Brocade IP networking products. Bingham says an initial inquiry about installing an IP phone at HealthMEDX’s corporate office led him to rethink his organization’s entire IT infrastructure. “We were a Cisco shop and assumed we would be buying new Cisco gear,” Bingham says. “Brocade offered us a different, better option.”

BROCADE

He adds that learning about Brocade prompted him to think about his current data center situation. "A Brocade switch can push data through every port, and I had huge Cisco chassis switches in my data center that could push only 1 Gbps through each 8 Gbps port. This increase in throughput led us to move to Brocade for our overall IP infrastructure solution and WLAN."

A SUCCESSFUL OPERATION

According to Bingham, the entire Brocade deployment has been a win-win for his company. "The Brocade network is easier to manage, and overall it provides a lower total cost of ownership for us," he says.

Factoring in the Voice over IP (VoIP) deployment, Bingham says the new network will pay for itself within 14 months—including the switches that were installed to support it. "Both IT and the users love the VoIP service," adds Bingham. "They can move locations and be on or off the network. And, because we own it, administration is much easier."

This flexibility also comes across in the new Wireless LAN (WLAN), which gives developers fewer boundaries. Developers are able to do their jobs much more efficiently and get updates and new software to clients faster. "In the past, we spent almost six hours creating a customer application package; now it takes almost two hours because there are no more bandwidth constraints," Bingham says.

He adds that with Brocade Mobility Access Points across the network, security has greatly improved, allowing HealthMEDX to more efficiently meet the security and privacy requirements of HIPAA and the SAS 70 auditing standard.

Overall, Bingham says, the upgraded network is seen as a building block for HealthMEDX's next data center refresh, especially after this deployment's relatively painless migration process. "We were able to bring the Brocade IP network up in the corporate office and branches in six hours," he says. "Employees went home with the old connection and came back with new connections, and they didn't experience any downtime during the transition and none since the network was deployed."

BROCADE DELIVERS PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE

Bingham and his team are already planning the next phases of their upgrade. "We're interested in doing a technology refresh and are looking at delivering high-speed video and high-speed Internet over one connection," he says.

In the meantime, HealthMEDX has been very pleased with the overall deployment process and its relationship with Brocade. "Purchasing Brocade is one of the best decisions we've ever made," he says. "Brocade has delivered 100 percent of what it said it would do. And that's pretty rare in the IT world. This isn't about buying a brand; it's about buying a solution that delivers."

For more information, visit www.brocade.com.

WHY BROCADE

"Purchasing Brocade is one of the best decisions we've ever made. Brocade has delivered 100 percent of what it said it would do. And that's pretty rare in the IT world. This isn't about buying a brand; it's about buying a solution that delivers."

— Chris Bingham, Vice President of Infrastructure at HealthMedX

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

© 2011 Brocade Communications Systems, Inc. All Rights Reserved. 05/11 GA-SS-1566-00

Brocade, the B-wing symbol, BigIron, DCFM, DCX, Fabric OS, FastIron, IronView, NetIron, SAN Health, ServerIron, Turbolron, and Wingspan are registered trademarks, and Brocade Assurance, Brocade NET Health, Brocade One, Extraordinary Networks, MyBrocade, VCS, and VDX are trademarks of Brocade Communications Systems, Inc., in the United States and/or in other countries. Other brands, products, or service names mentioned are or may be trademarks or service marks of their respective owners.

Notice: This document is for informational purposes only and does not set forth any warranty, expressed or implied, concerning any equipment, equipment feature, 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 informational 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