

# City of Irvine



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Challenge

Replace an aging network with an open, cost-effective, and scalable networking solution, enabling the city to better serve and protect its citizens now and into the future.

### Solution

- Brocade ICX 6610 Switches for high-performance access
- Brocade ICX 7750 Switches for aggregation and network core
- Brocade VDX 6740 Switches for data center connection

### Results

- Delivered a higher ROI with a distributed network architecture due to lower capital outlay, reduced operations expenses, decreased maintenance and support costs, better warranty, and more
- Enabled best-of-breed solutions with an open standards-based network
- Provided planned upgradability with flexibility and scalability to support both current and future requirements
- Secured first-tier service and support that is available and responsive for all network needs

## City of Irvine Taps Brocade to Power Operations Command Center

The City of Irvine has a short, but prestigious, history. Incorporated less than 50 years ago, the southern California city has earned top awards as the best place to live in the United States, best city, and best run city year after year. When the city's underlying network for its emergency 911 and police command center needed an upgrade, it began searching for an elite solution that aligned with the city's expectation of excellence.

The city's aging network lacked operational readiness and the cost of maintaining the network was consuming too many resources. Most importantly, the network would not carry the City of Irvine into the future, as it had no 10 Gigabit Ethernet capability, was unreliable, and support costs were extremely expensive.

"We had Cisco technology, but it needed an upgrade and SMARTnet was expensive," said Michael Sherwood, Deputy Director of City Services and Technology at the City of Irvine. "We needed bandwidth-intensive equipment, and Brocade offered us a solution with better reliability, increased performance, and a higher ROI. We didn't realize what we were missing before in terms of service possibilities. Now for whatever we can imagine, Brocade can help us make it a reality."

## PREPARED FOR NEW, DENSE TRAFFIC PATTERNS

The City of Irvine is managing large new video loads that will continue to increase as new video technology becomes increasingly essential to the police department. To handle the increased traffic from bandwidth-intensive apps, the city replaced the chassis in the network core with Brocade® ICX® 7750 Switches and deployed Brocade 6610 Switches at the network edge. Brocade VDX® Switches connect the main data center with a disaster recovery site, providing redundancy. As the network expands, instead of overprovisioning the initial chassis deployment, the city can easily upgrade bandwidth with additional stackable switches at the core and edge when they are needed.

"Brocade offered us a flexible way to replace our legacy chassis. The way we design a network has fundamentally changed forever to a more distributed model. We no longer need an overly expensive large core chassis because we get more features, throughput, and value from the Brocade ICX 7750 distributed switches," said Sherwood. "We're extremely pleased with the switches' performance and ability to handle mission-critical intelligence data and video. Speed is important to us because we need to have real-time access when someone's life is on the line."

The new Brocade ICX 7750 switches, which only occupy one Rack Unit (RU), replaced a 14RU legacy chassis, substantially decreasing the space used in the data center's racks. "The power, cooling, and footprint savings were pretty dramatic," said Sherwood. "Adding green components and cutting down our carbon footprint is critical."

The Brocade switches support the city's voice, video, and data traffic coming into the 911 system. "The Brocade solution has been flawless, not one problem. The performance constraints we had with our previous network have gone away," said Sherwood. "With our video solution, we've already noticed a huge impact and robust performance from having 10 GbE connections back to our data center."

The new Brocade network also supports the systems responsible for police record searches, the front desk, and other public safety operations. The overall scope is substantial, and the City of Irvine has leveraged the Brocade open philosophy that allows selection across a suite of best-in-class, multivendor products, including a VoIP phone system and wireless network.

"Brocade lets me buy solutions that suit our unique needs. Not everyone plays well with outsiders, but Brocade is open to working with other providers so we can put the best possible systems in place," said Sherwood.

Brocade seamlessly deployed its technology into the city's IT environment without upending current projects. The IT team spent minimal time getting up

and running with the Brocade switches. "The Brocade interface is extremely similar to the Cisco one, so the engineers were familiar with the configuration and administration processes," said Sherwood. "We spent our time understanding new features, not learning administration tasks."

When it comes to service and support, Sherwood has been impressed with Brocade's responsiveness and the team's skill level and knowledge. "If I have questions, the Brocade team will help me, and they act as our partner and trusted advisor, not just as a hardware provider. Exceptional service and support sets Brocade apart from the rest of the field."

## BUDGET-FRIENDLY AND FUTURE-READY

Bringing Brocade technology into the City of Irvine has been a big positive for Sherwood's budget. "We aren't paying for expensive maintenance, and that leaves us with more capital available to innovate for our city's productivity and safety. Plus, our overall capital outlay is less because we're not over-purchasing for possible future needs. Brocade lets us purchase modifications as our needs change and as our budgets permit. It's a future-proofing model that builds in planned upgradability that greatly benefits us."

In terms of ROI, Sherwood regards Brocade as the clear winner in its field. "Brocade is a better, more flexible product than what we had, and it has a much higher ROI. The initial outlay is less, the long-term viability is equal or longer, the energy costs are less, and the ongoing maintenance

## WHY BROCADE

*"Brocade offered us a flexible way to replace our legacy chassis. The way we design a network has fundamentally changed forever to a more distributed model. We no longer need an overly expensive large core chassis because we get more features, throughput, and value from the Brocade ICX 7750 distributed switches."*

—Michael Sherwood, Deputy Director of City Services and Technology, City of Irvine

and operations costs are extremely less expensive than Cisco," he said.

The benefits of Brocade's ROI and the pay-as-you-grow model are working extremely well at the City of Irvine, and it expects to deploy more Brocade equipment in its city-wide overhaul strategy. "We will expand what we're doing with Brocade in the police department throughout the city. Brocade provides the scalability we need, and it adds environmentally green components that are critical to the future," said Sherwood. "I don't have to worry about the network being an impediment to delivering the services that we'll need in the coming years."

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

### Corporate Headquarters

San Jose, CA USA  
T: +1-408-333-8000  
[info@brocade.com](mailto:info@brocade.com)

### European Headquarters

Geneva, Switzerland  
T: +41-22-799-56-40  
[emea-info@brocade.com](mailto:emea-info@brocade.com)

### Asia Pacific Headquarters

Singapore  
T: +65-6538-4700  
[apac-info@brocade.com](mailto:apac-info@brocade.com)



© 2015 Brocade Communications Systems, Inc. All Rights Reserved. 04/15 GA-SS-1881-02

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 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** 