

Network Infrastructure Migration

A two-year programme of network infrastructure device migrations



The challenge

Our client, a global investment, insurance and retail banking group, implemented a two-year network infrastructure migration programme as part of a major group-wide investment in IT infrastructure.

While the majority of the moves were to new purpose-built datacentres and sites, many were between existing facilities and buildings.

Every second weekend a phased migration was carried out which typically included 40 or 50 pieces of network infrastructure equipment, including servers, routers, switches, firewalls and other ad hoc devices. Detailed planning and close integration with the client's own IT and logistics teams was critical.

Our understanding of the client business, built up through many years providing a comprehensive datacentre to desktop IT infrastructure and support service, was equally valuable.

The solution & implementation

Throughout the programme, Excel provided comprehensive patching, connectivity, logistics, rack & stack, migration and testing, as well as project management support.

For each phase, host lists were typically issued to our team a month in advance. A physical audit was then carried out, confirming details which were critical to a smooth migration process: asset numbers and locations; existing patching; U height of servers and how many U were being used; how many power connections; and cable management arrangements.

Once these details were physically confirmed, and any anomalies with the original host list resolved, a document was created and shared to become the central moves resource.

Deploying our expertise in Intelligent Infrastructure Management (IIM), we used imVision to manage all patching and connectivity requirements. First our specialists loaded the patching jobs on imVision and, working through the week leading up to the move weekend, engineers then implemented the full pre-patching schedule.

Throughout this process, any issues were escalated to the client team. With pre-patching completed, Thursday was spent testing and Friday was available for any last minute changes. Once testing was completed on all patching, switch ports and VLANs, a final report was sent to the move co-ordinator for that weekend's relocation.

Following decommissioning of network infrastructure, all equipment was packed in secure flight cases and transported to its new locations in secure trucks. Once the equipment was re-commissioned, Excel completed all copper and fibre patching and migrated and tested the infrastructure.

A Monday review process took place after each migration phase.

Results

As a result of our rigorous migration processes, the specialist skills of our engineers, and our long-standing and effective partnership with the client's own IT teams, a challenging and ambitious migration programme was delivered on schedule and without interruption to the company's day-to-day operations.



At a glance

- » Two-year network infrastructure device migration programme
- » Global financial services client
- » 40 / 50 network infrastructure devices every second weekend
- » Approximately 3,000 network infrastructure devices migrated
- » Excel providing services for:
 - » Project management
 - » Patching
 - » Connectivity
 - » Logistics
 - » Racking & stacking
 - » Migration & Testing

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