



Case Study

SD-WAN Delivers Cost Savings and Performance for a Global Brewer

The client

With hundreds of locations and operations in more than 50 countries, the client is an award-winning global brewer and household name that employs roughly 170,000 people worldwide.

The challenge: Reduce OpEx by eliminating MPLS circuits

The client’s IT organization had determined that modernizing their network infrastructure was a top priority. A recent corporate mandate to migrate a substantial portion of overall workloads to the cloud was a catalyst for change across the technology stack.

The client aimed to replace MPLS circuits with SD-WAN. Several years ago, they acquired the infrastructure and began piloting. Having partnered with Insight Cloud + Data Center Transformation (CDCT) for other initiatives, the company reached out to us to help remediate issues on a case-by-case basis that were occurring during the pilot. However, the scope of these ad hoc projects reached the point where a more holistic and comprehensive engagement made more strategic and economic sense.

Industry:

Consumer goods — beverages

CDCT provided:

- Headend assessment and redeployment
- SD-WAN solution design
- MPLS circuit replacement for 75 sites
- Network surveying and remediation
- Cisco Meraki deployment

CDCT services:

- Consulting Services
- Professional Services — Networking

The solution: Network assessment and Cisco Meraki deployment

Based on our remediation work, we began by assessing the client's headend. Our evaluation confirmed suspicions that it had not been deployed properly. Skilled members of our Professional Services team redeployed the headend and moved on to the next phase.

We removed MPLS circuits from most of the roughly 75 target sites across North America, with plans to visit a dozen more sites in Canada. Each site begins with extensive surveys. This has helped us address issues related to voice circuits, proxies, and bandwidth requirements.

The client opted for Cisco Meraki™, as it allows them to choose a data path for traffic and dynamically failover data paths in the case of any issues. The solution enabled the client to keep their infrastructure footprint as light as possible. Cisco Meraki does not require internal servers, and offers simplified, cloud-based monitoring and management across all global sites.

The benefits: Cost savings and easier network management

By replacing expensive MPLS circuits with an SD-WAN solution, the client is experiencing short- and long-term cost savings across dozens of sites.

The network design lets the client take advantage of local internet at each location and offload traffic where needed to ensure consistently high WAN bandwidth. New capabilities of failing over between circuits or dynamically choosing paths based off of circuit degradation or transit issues gives the client excellent reliability and performance at a lower cost. The client's network administrators are now able to monitor and manage global traffic from a single dashboard.

Looking ahead, the client has discussed engaging CDCT to perform MPLS removal at their disaster recovery site and their primary data center, firewall rearchitecture with Cisco Meraki, SD-WAN surveys for 11 U.S. breweries, and voice projects in Europe. Network modernization may not be a quick fix for a global corporation. But, with a skillful and trustworthy partner, the client is sure to reach their ambitious goals.

This project is part of an ongoing digital transformation that includes these other initiatives completed for the client:

- "Global Brewer Transitions to Cloud and Drives Digital Transformation"
- "International Manufacturer Turns to CDCT for Critical Network, Voice, and Telecom Solutions"

Benefits:

- Modern and cost-effective network architecture
- Simpler network management from a single pane of glass

Increased
reliability and
performance



Reduced OpEx
and hardware
requirements

Consistently
high WAN
bandwidth



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CS-SD-AB-1.0.04.20