

Global Foreign Exchange & Payment Firm

Takes The First Steps to Private Cloud

softchoice
CASE STUDY

Business Challenges

The company decided to pursue an aggressive growth strategy across multiple international markets, to increase the firm's competitiveness and brand awareness.

To accomplish this objective, the company required:

- significant increases in the scalability and performance of its communications infrastructure
- a platform for further expansion in the future
- an infrastructure that fulfilled regulatory compliance standards

The firm's existing data center was located in an old building in an earthquake-prone region. This led to concerns about the risks to the physical infrastructure and operations in the event of a quake. Additionally, the firm knew that the data center couldn't deliver the increased levels of service and availability the company required under its new growth strategy, as it was already at capacity running 100+ application workloads.

Most importantly, the data center didn't meet recent new stringent government mandated regulatory compliance requirements, which had the potential of impacting the company's ability to operate in some countries.

The company decided the best solution was to build a completely new data center in a more geographically stable area of the country.

Softchoice Solution

Softchoice was engaged to assist the company with a high-level business focused data center architecture design including built in compliance for business critical applications and scoped for growth so new services could be added in the future.

After gathering the customer's specifications, consolidating the list of requirements and evaluating the company's growth strategies, Softchoice recommended a Cisco Validated Design for Secure Multi-Tenancy or SMT solution, built on VMware, Cisco and NetApp technologies, known as FlexPod. FlexPod is a reference architecture that combines NetApp storage systems, Cisco Unified Computing System servers, and Cisco Nexus fabric into a single, flexible architecture. FlexPod solutions are validated and tested to reduce risk and increase IT efficiency.

The benefits of the Flexpod solution include:

- Accelerated data center deployment by 50% while reducing risk, using pre-validated, standardized components
- Increased efficiencies and decreased costs with a simplified shared, virtualized infrastructure
- Improved IT agility providing a flexible, unified infrastructure stack, built for virtualization today, but able to scale to a fully private or public cloud in the future.
- Dramatically lowered space, power and cooling requirements, reducing the overall energy footprint.

In addition to designing the architecture and implementing the FlexPod solution at the new site, Softchoice also managed the successful migration of over 100+ mission-critical applications to the new location.

The implementation plan included developing a co-location site and creating strategies for interconnections between data center sites, as well as providing a comprehensive list of all the servers and applications in scope and their interdependencies.

Business Outcomes

A test environment built at Softchoice staged the Cisco UCS, NetApp Network and VMware vSphere data center configurations to ensure they were working to specifications. By using the Softchoice test environment, the company was able to experiment with Flexpod to determine its functions and capabilities, prior to final implementation at the new main site.

As components were tested and approved, Softchoice's team worked closely with the company's technical team to migrate the hardware and applications to both the main and co-location data center sites, while simultaneously maintaining service levels and availability for the company.

The new infrastructure positioned the company to take advantage of emerging opportunities by driving operational efficiencies, improving speed to market, and creating financial flexibility to fund growth. By implementing a Flexpod infrastructure, the company is positioned to take advantage of a private cloud infrastructure and deliver on its strategy of dramatically accelerating the company's growth.

Case Study Snapshot:

Softchoice implemented a Flexpod solution in the client's new data center. This has yielded faster customer service, stricter compliance with government regulations, increased application speed, reductions in provision times and a cloud-ready infrastructure built with the future in mind.

Client Profile:

This global company is an industry leader in global money transfer with approximately 500,000 locations in over 200 countries.

Verticals:

+ Finance

Geography:

+ Global

Technologies involved:

+ Data Center

+ Flexpod

+ Cloud Ready Infrastructure