

CASE STUDY – Consulting engineering Mid-sized company

Summary

Sector

Consulting engineering

Scope

6 major sites across Canada acting as test offices for another 20 sites world wide

Project

2007

Reduce CAD file transfer times on the WAN (Wide Area Network)

Technology

Application accelerators, central management console and mobile appliances

Results and benefits

- Marked decrease in the time needed to open CAD files;
- Project management productivity gain;
- Optimization of backup process through the centralization of drawings;
- Reduction in bandwidth utilization.

Background

- The company does business in the consulting engineering sector and has several offices located in cities around the world;
- The drawings done by the firm's architects and engineers require the use of CAD applications, which produce very heavy files;
- Opening CAD files on the WAN was taking a long time, which led to high-priced employees waiting several minutes to open the files they needed to work on;
- Many engineers and other specialists must work in mobile mode;
- The delay in opening e-mail messages was having a negative effect on the performance and productivity of the workforce.

Needs and challenges

- Obtain access to CAD files on the WAN as quickly as on the LAN;
- Increase the productivity of the professional workforce by accelerating project times;
- Centralize CAD drawings while maintaining quick access for all WAN users in satellite offices as well as for employees on the road or at client sites.
- Reduce application response times made slower by the distances covered by the WAN.

Solutions

- Conduct in-lab testing to establish equipment relevance;
- Define and analyze needs;
- Recommend the required architecture and equipment;
- Pre-configure equipment at the plant beforehand to assure easy, rapid installation (plug & play);
- Train employees and assure a transfer of knowledge on the equipment.