DATA CENTER RELOCATION AND STATE-OF-THE-ART POLICY-BASED NETWORKING POWERED BY CISCO ACI

CHALLENGE :

A Fortune 100 Communications company was faced with a data center relocation initiative as their building lease was about to expire. The company saw this relocation as an opportunity to consolidate their existing data center and build a new state-of-the-art data center with infrastructure built for today, and for the future.

The customer was faced with the following challenges:

- The building lease expiration posed a tight deadline, especially for relocating a data center of this size

- This data center housed the customer's VDI environment, Telecom equipment and Business Applications, making it critical to minimize downtime and impact to employees

- Data center security could not be compromised

Given WEI's vast experience managing data center relocations coupled with experience implementing software defined networking solutions, the customer brought in WEI to manage the data center consolidation, relocation, and integration of net new infrastructure, as well as the implementation of the Cisco ACI solution in a production environment.

"WEI is Cisco ACI certified and is one of the very few IT solutions providers worldwide with experience implementing Cisco ACI in production environments."

– Greg LaBrie, Director of Technology Solutions and Services

SOLUTION:

As a supplier of the customer's data center components (servers, storage, and networking), WEI already understood the existing IT environment and was able to get started quickly. WEI's project management team brought together the three stakeholder groups, the Data Center Infrastructure Manager, and the Server and Networking teams, to understand business goals and requirements. The Data Center Infrastructure Manager required the new data center to run on DC power. Since WEI is the only IT solutions providers in the region with DC power options available, WEI staged all the equipment in our Data Center Demo Lab over an 8-week period replicating the customer's environment with servers, storage, and software defined networking with Cisco ACI.

ABOUT WEI

WEI is an innovative, full service, customer centric IT solutions provider.

Why WEI? Because we care.
Because we go further.

At WEI, we're passionate about solving your technology problems and helping you drive your desired business outcomes. We believe in challenging the status quo and thinking differently. There are a lot of companies that can take today's technology and create a great IT solution for you. But we do more. We go further. And we have the customer, vendor and industry awards to prove it. WEI is a premier technology partner, who always puts our customers first while providing the most innovative solutions for over 25 years.

info@wei.com

800.296.7837

www.wei.com

43 Northwestern Drive
Salem, NH 03079

The hardware and software configuration was done collaboratively among WEI, Cisco and the customer's networking team during a week-long testing and training session in WEI's Knowledge Transfer Center. This was a huge time-saver for the customer because they did not have to wait for the new data center install to be complete in order to start testing Cisco ACI in their updated environment.

WEI also led the data center build and played a major role in the physical install with the Rack and Stack of 70 cabinets by WEI integration and engineering teams.

OUTCOME

The decision to implement Cisco ACI was a key factor in the success of the consolidation and relocation because its backbone infrastructure allowed the data center to be set up quickly. ACI features automatic fabric deployment and configuration with single point of management by the Application Policy Infrastructure Controller (APIC). Only one rack had to be configured and then the APIC pushed the configuration to the 70 racks in the new data center, which saved a significant amount of time.

Cisco ACI allows for:

- More portability for applications across different data centers
- Automation of IT tasks, such as switch configuration and deployment
- Policy-based networking with no limitations on the number of VLANS
- More secure network with built-in microsegmentation
- Accelerated data center application deployment

Cisco ACI and the engineers from WEI transformed the customer's traditional data center networking model to one that is policy-based. As new applications are developed or added, the customer has the infrastructure in place to allow for security and connectivity to be built around the application, rather than the network.

This project was the largest Cisco ACI implementation in a production environment in the United States. The goal of this data center relocation was to build an efficient, secure data center that can scale, and it gave the customer a new greenfield production environment. The success of this implementation will be mirrored and rolled out in the customer's data centers across the country.

WEI
Dedication meets innovation.