

Healthscope select Logicalis for WAN Acceleration solution

Healthscope is a leading private health care provider within Australia that uniquely operates in every State and Territory, as well as in Asia. Healthscope is the second largest private hospital provider in Australia, operating 43 private hospitals around the country. The company includes a pathology business with facilities in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Malaysia, a growing medical centre division with over 45 clinics and a diagnostic imaging division based in major hospitals.

Challenge

To meet the growing needs of its hospitals and pathology labs, Healthscope needed a solution that made more efficient use of bandwidth and allowed it to send larger applications to remote sites. With only small internet links available to remote sites, applications were prohibitively slow, impeding business performance and delaying patient turnaround time.



Healthscope needed to improve its connection speeds, which were often running at dial-up speeds of 256kb or 512kb and needed to improve the compression technology used to send more complex applications to remote sites.

Healthscope needed a product with high-performance capabilities that would improve performance without losing any of the integrity of the connection.

Solution

In November 2008 Logicalis won the opportunity to conduct a trial of the Cisco Wide Area Application Services (WAAS) solution – a comprehensive WAN optimisation solution that accelerates application delivery over the network. The trial was conducted during a period of two months and measured the performance of the Cisco WAAS 4.1 solution to four remote sites, two hospitals and two pathology labs. Results were then compared to the incumbent technology provided by Riverbed Technology.

The trial proved that the Cisco WAAS solution implemented by Logicalis could deliver results four times faster than the incumbent. Logicalis was awarded the contract to design, implement and manage the initial roll-out of the WAN optimisation project as well as manage the ongoing maintenance and technical support for Healthscope.

The project is being conducted in two phases, with the initial roll out to 59 sites Australia-wide commencing in June 2009. The initial phase covers



“We needed a partner who understood the intricate needs of our business and could deliver a comprehensive solution that met all of our requirements in a cost effective way. The trial implemented by Logicalis proved that it was the best partner for the job,”

the 43 pathology labs and 16 of the most critical private hospitals, which were chosen based on their remote location and current performance capabilities.

WAAS 4.1 has been installed on existing Cisco routers and replaces the additional hardware required by the Riverbed Technology solution. By consolidating the hardware required at each site, Healthscope gains greater cost efficiencies and reduces its overall maintenance costs.

The second phase of the roll out will be completed by June 2010 and will cover the remaining 26 hospitals in the Healthscope network.

Benefits

“Logicalis has improved performance to Healthscope’s remote sites, with speeds increasing by up to 1MB or 2MB (depending on the application) and we are thrilled with these results. Logicalis minimised the impact on our sites during the changeover and managed the whole process effortlessly. We have been very impressed with their capabilities.

“The Cisco WAAS solution has been installed on our existing routers, meaning we have a cleaner technology solution at each site, with only one box required to do the work of two. This will help us lower our maintenance costs and ongoing technology costs significantly.”