

Global Enterprise Scales to Meet Real-Time Demand



Executive Summary

Customer Name: HireRight, Inc.

Industry: Human Resources

Location: Irvine, California

Number of Employees: 1600+

Challenge

- Streamline IT infrastructure and simplify administration for long term
- Reduce carbon footprint
- Maintain high performance and availability for customers and internal users

Solution

- Cisco Unified Computing System enables secure, high-performance virtual desktop infrastructure
- Cisco Nexus Switches leverage full 10-gigabit bandwidth without excess cabling
- Cisco Services team offers customized recommendations for optimal IT environment

Results

- Scaled quickly and effectively at all levels of technology infrastructure stack
- Reduced time to deploy virtual desktops, increased density of virtual servers
- Minimized carbon footprint while significantly enhancing performance

HireRight deploys Unified Computing System for flexible, secure, high-performance data centers and reduced carbon footprint.

Challenge

HireRight is the industry leader in providing solutions to meet its customers' employment background screening, drug screening, and employment eligibility requirements. The company delivers fast, accurate information to hiring, security, and safety professionals at over 45,000 organizations, including more than one-third of the Fortune 500.

In 2010, the company's IT leadership began asking hard questions about how to scale its data center resources in the long term. "We maintain 10 data centers worldwide, and we serve customers in more than 200 countries and territories," says Mark Adams, vice president of information technology at HireRight. "We wanted to streamline our IT infrastructure and simplify administration by minimizing the server sprawl that tends to grow over time in most IT shops."

HireRight also wanted to reduce the carbon footprint of its data center operations. "Like many other companies, we're looking for ways to enhance the sustainability of our IT operations," says Adams. "By consolidating and virtualizing our data centers, we knew that we could meet the business's IT needs for the next five to 10 years, all while demonstrating our commitment to greener business practices."

Whatever approach the IT team decided to take, high performance and availability were non-negotiable requirements. "Our customers' ability to make informed hiring decisions is tied to the availability of HireRight's on-demand SaaS (software as a service) applications," says Adams. "Any change to our cloud infrastructure must maintain our commitment to the highest possible availability and security."



“With Cisco UCS, we can adapt much more quickly to user demand. Both our customers and our internal users benefit hugely from our migration to a highly available, consistently fast service delivery platform.”

– Mark Adams,
Vice President of Information
Technology
HireRight

Solution

The implementation of server and desktop virtualization was a key element in HireRight’s streamlined approach to IT. The company found the right solution with VMware supported by the Cisco Unified Computing System™ (UCS™). “When a VDI is deployed correctly, it can be a major business enabler,” says Adams. “But in order to make that happen, you need to have a system that can adjust in real time to meet users’ emerging needs. Cisco UCS, combined with VMware virtualization and EMC storage, offer us a powerful, scalable VDI that we can deploy across a substantial number of virtual desktops globally.”

The IT team was especially insistent on choosing an optimized blade architecture with high-density memory models. The Cisco® UCS B200, B250, and B440 Blade Servers, along with Cisco 6140XP 40-Port and 6120XP 20-Port Fabric Interconnects, offered them just that. “In addition to ease of management,” says Adams, “the UCS B-Series Blade Servers gave us the 384 gigabytes of memory per blade we need to help ensure the best possible response times across our system.”

HireRight also required a high-performance network that could scale to meet the company’s needs not just at the present moment, but for years to come. “We were very interested in Cisco’s FCoE [Fibre Channel over Ethernet] capabilities,” says Adams. “We’re currently investing a great deal in a 10-gigabit Ethernet platform, and Cisco Nexus switches enable us to leverage our full bandwidth without excess cabling.”

Today, Cisco Nexus® 5000 and 7000 Series Switches, Nexus 7200 Routers, and Cisco Catalyst® 4500 and 6500 Series Switches serve as the high-density network foundation for HireRight’s fully converged IP/VoIP LAN and WAN. The company runs Cisco MDS Multilayer Switches for its SAN.

Cisco Services and Cisco partner FusionStorm worked closely with HireRight’s IT team to build a new infrastructure. Cisco Services was involved during the planning stage to assist with network discovery and design. Then FusionStorm implemented the solution. “The Cisco team sat down with us, understood what we were trying to achieve, looked at the applications we were trying to run, and designed a solution that met our specific needs,” says Adams. “For example, we run on an Oracle database platform, and Cisco Services took the time to understand what we would need from the Cisco product line in order to integrate with Oracle. We really appreciated their attention to detail.”

Results

Cisco products have been instrumental in enabling HireRight to scale both quickly and effectively at all levels of the technology infrastructure stack. “With Cisco UCS, we can adapt much more quickly to user demand,” says Adams. “Both our customers and our internal users benefit hugely from our migration to a highly available, consistently fast service delivery platform.”

With more efficient IT operations, the company can reduce the time required to deploy virtual desktops while increasing the density of virtual servers and desktops running on each server blade. IT team members can refresh development, staging, quality assurance, and production environments far more quickly than before. And with simplified administrator toolsets, HireRight can increase the number of systems supported by IT staff, and therefore control staffing costs.

Product List

Data Center Solutions

- Cisco Unified Computing System (UCS)
 - Cisco UCS B200, B250, and B440 Blade Servers
 - Cisco UCS 6140XP 40-Port and 6120XP 20-Port Fabric Interconnect
- Cisco Nexus 5000 and 7000 Series Switches
- Cisco Nexus 7200 Series Routers
- Cisco Catalyst 6500 and 4500 Series Switches
- Cisco MDS Multilayer Switches

Applications

- Oracle Java
- .NET
- VMware

Storage Solutions

- EMC VNX 5500 Series

Services List

- Cisco Assessment and Design Services

Finally, the Cisco implementation underscores HireRight's commitment to greener business practices. The company's IT organization aims to reduce the rack space in its data centers by 65 percent, lower power consumption by 45 percent, and achieve an immediate 50 percent performance increase. "We're well on our way to achieving our environmental goals," says Adams. "As we roll out to the rest of our data centers around the world, I fully expect to see us achieve every one of our sustainability targets."

Next Steps

The company's U.S. data centers now run on Cisco UCS, with deployment under way in its European data centers. "Cisco Services never approached this as a generic implementation," says Adams. "They have truly helped us realize the potential of our new IT environment."

This customer story is based on information provided by HireRight, Inc. and describes how that particular organization benefits from the deployment of Cisco products. Many factors may have contributed to the results and benefits described; Cisco does not guarantee comparable results elsewhere.

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