

Georgia City Deploys Consolidated Environment to Increase Productivity



Sandy Springs, Georgia deploys Cisco UCS and NetApp FlexPod to streamline operations.

Executive Summary

Sandy Springs

- **Industry:** SLG
- **Location:** Sandy Springs, GA
- **Number of Users:** 316

CHALLENGE

- Secure network and install new hardware
- Increase public safety using technology to aggregate data

SOLUTION

- Update network foundation and establish virtual environment
- Migrate network to in-house environment

RESULTS

- Increased data accessibility to police department
- Improved efficiency and quality of delivery
- Renewed confidence in network

Challenge

Sandy Springs, Georgia is a northern suburb of Atlanta with a population of just under 100,000. The city's police department was facing several challenges in managing public safety, because its technology and infrastructure were outdated and completely outsourced, which did not allow the department to access its data efficiently. The police department was in the process of creating a Crime Analysis-Intelligence (CAI) unit that would gather intelligence from other local, state, and federal agencies to analyze and disseminate the information. Because the city did not have an IT department of its own, officials proceeded to conduct an audit to determine how the city could improve its network and what technologies the city would need to improve data access.

After the audit, the police department started a discovery process to determine its data footprint and the applications that would be needed to have a functional IT department. The process also looked at the city's anticipated growth pattern, its business needs, and the budget for constructing the environment. Sandy Spring officials began soliciting area implementation IT services groups to offer price points for server needs to establish a virtual environment. After reaching out to a few contacts and exploring a variety of data center platforms and storage options, Lt. David Roskind of the Sandy Spring Police Department discovered Cisco Unified Computing System™ (UCS™) and NetApp. Cisco met with Lt. Roskind to discuss the options for the city's storage footprint and to outline a long-term infrastructure plan.

When meeting with Sandy Springs representatives, Cisco addressed ways to overcome some of the city's challenges, including:

- Simplify and improve business processes
- Support growth and expansion of police department efforts, specifically creation of CAI unit
- Increase accessibility to necessary data

Solution

Sandy Springs turned to Cisco and partners NetApp and VMware for an affordable solution in the areas of resilience, continuity, and disaster planning. Cisco presented the blade server and FlexPod options as potential architectures for the city to both Lt. Roskind and Johnny Johnson, senior project engineer at the Sandy Springs Police Department. Johnson was unfamiliar with the Cisco blade server option. Johnson and his team reviewed the offerings from Dell, HP, and IBM, but were drawn to the Cisco® UCS solutions because of the longer life and reduced cost of ownership over time. The blade servers work with virtualized applications to increase performance, energy efficiency, and flexibility.

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David Roskind

Lieutenant, Sandy Springs Police Department

Sandy Springs invested in the Cisco and NetApp FlexPod option, a design architecture that combines networking, computing, and storage infrastructure. The flexible, scalable, shared infrastructure is pretested to help channel partners and customers lower deployment risk, increase data center efficiencies, and create a flexible information technology environment to build a private cloud.

Cisco partner, Internetwork Engineering (IE) designed an infrastructure that identified the needs of the business and ensured that they were all address with the solution. IE also procured, implemented and integrated the solutions in a highly available architecture leveraging both a primary and secondary site and ensured that staff were trained correctly on the system.

“I can say after selections were made, we would have been unable to execute a timely implementation as well as perform the migration of client data and systems had it not been for the swift dedication from IE and Interdev LLC. They were able to condense a 12+ month project into a 4 month deployment,” said Johnson.

Results

Once Sandy Springs decided to use the solutions, Cisco knew that it had to act fast to deploy the system, because the city was working on a very tight timeline. “Cisco was extremely responsive to our needs and delivered ahead of schedule to ensure that the system was up and that we had continuity,” says Roskind. Upgrading the police department’s environment involved a migration from leased off-site management to an in-house-owned environment. The major challenge during the migration was to maintain the productive environment and have a minimal impact to the workforce. “Cisco really pulled out all the stops to make sure the hardware was delivered in time based upon the city’s condensed project deadlines,” Roskind says. “I was beyond impressed.”

After implementing the Cisco solutions, Sandy Springs had a much more secure environment and a far more stable network. “Our confidence with the new environment has been overwhelming,” says Roskind. “Prior to the installation we had to save all our information on an external hard drive because we never knew when the network would fail. We are no longer concerned about the network being unreliable.”

The Cisco UCS and NetApp investments provided Sandy Springs with a shared infrastructure that scales to meet the changing requirements of the city’s growing data center without disruption or the need to make architectural changes in the future. Sandy Springs was also able to integrate networking, computing, and storage components so that they could be centrally managed. These components are optimized for a virtual data center environment, and enable central management of an entire infrastructure (storage, compute, network, and hypervisor). “Working with our vendor, we are able to implement existing and new technologies in the environment,” says

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Product List

NETWORK MANAGEMENT

- Cisco Unified Computing System (UCS)
- NetApp FlexPod for VMware
- Cisco UCS Blade Servers

SECURITY AND VPN

- NetApp

Johnson. "With the virtual and dense storage solutions, we have seen vast improvements in terms of delivery, and our process remained uninterrupted as we upgraded."

Since implementation, Sandy Springs has seen streamlined work processes throughout the department, improved efficiency and collaboration, and a more secure environment that has satisfied the entire police department. "We have successfully implemented our CAI Unit and are comfortable to know that we get the support that we need from Cisco," says Lt. Roskind. "We have received a lot of positive feedback from the command staff at the police department. They can depend on it. There have been a lot of 'thank yous.'"

For More Information

To find out more about the Cisco data center, go to:
<http://www.cisco.com/go/datacenter>.

