



Family data's safe from harm

Kind en Gezin needed a small server for a big job. Keeping systems online was the issue. Cisco UCS® Mini stood up to solve it.

“The data center is more reliable. It's better and more cost effective, for sure.”

Chris Dumoulin, Network and Telecoms Manager, Kind en Gezin

Aimed at helping families, Kind en Gezin doesn't have massive computing needs. But still its data is vital. Cisco UCS Mini gives improved uptime at lower cost.

Challenges

- Improve systems resilience
- Reduce costs and computing complexity

Several thousand Belgian mothers, fathers, kids and carers rely on the services and systems provided by Kind en Gezin. The public sector body helps families when mothers are pregnant until each child's third birthday.

Part of the service involves home visits where staff members need remote systems access, assuming they're running of course. But servers in use by Kind en Gezin were getting old, and they had no backup. Something more resilient was needed.

Case Study | Kind en Gezin

Size: 1300 employees

Location: Belgium

Industry: Public sector



The Cisco UCS Mini server helped out in a big way.

Solutions

• Cisco UCS Mini

Mini downtime

IT partner, SAIT, replaced the aging Kind en Gezin servers with a redundant Cisco UCS Mini setup. The first of its kind in Belgium, the system safely stores millions of records. Now data is always completely backed up, and there's less chance of downtime. "The data center is more reliable," says Chris Dumoulin, Network and Telecoms manager. "It's better and more cost effective, for sure."

Mini cost and space

SAIT proposed Cisco UCS Mini after checking its lifetime costs against other alternatives. Using Cisco Smart Net Total Care™ for support and spare parts saves up to 24 percent in maintenance costs over four years. The compact footprint of Cisco UCS Mini means Kind en Gezin needs only about a fifth of the space its old servers used in its data center.

Mini time and cabling

Kind en Gezin can now deploy new servers 20 percent faster, using preset service profiles. The Cisco UCS Mini requires only eight cables too.

Mini hassle

"The Cisco UCS Manager is packed with features," says Dumoulin. But he doesn't have to worry about most of them. "For the things we need it's very simple," he adds. What's even better is he's only got to deal with one supplier, Cisco, for all network and server needs.

30%
Saving in space
at Kind en Gezin's
data center



Results

- Improved uptime with redundant data center setup
- Helped vital systems perform better
- Saved cost, space, time, and cabling

Giving children a better start

The biggest bonus of the new data center setup is that, by keeping systems running, it's helping parents and children across Belgium. Now there's less chance that a Kind en Gezin nurse or doctor might not be able to access a child's records or answer a query from a worried mother.

At the same time, Kind en Gezin is cutting its costs and doing more with less. That means Belgians are getting better value for money from their taxes. It's not just a better deal for families, but also a better deal for everyone.

Giving computing a better platform

Even though Cisco UCS Mini is helping cut costs, Kind en Gezin thinks it can optimize even further. One idea is to move the backup system to a third-party data center, which is more cost effective than keeping it in-house.

Products & Services

Data Center

- Cisco Unified Computing System™ (Cisco UCS)
- Cisco UCS Mini

Routing and Switching

- Cisco Nexus® 5000 Series Switches

Network Management

- Cisco Unified Computing System Manager

Storage

- EMC VNX 5000

For More Information

To learn more about the Cisco solutions featured in this case study, visit: www.cisco.com/go/ucsmmini



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