

THE WORRY-FREE NETWORK

As technology evolves faster and the workforce clamors for the latest and greatest digital tools, the complexity of your network grows at an alarming speed. IT professionals need the capability to simplify their infrastructure to facilitate better ways of delivering services to their end users. The level of proficiency needed to keep up with network technology has escalated. At a minimum, IT developers now need to have competency in Ajax, remote function calls and mash ups for Web 2.0. They need to understand 24/7 wireless coverage, mobility needs, and more.

Keeping all this expertise up to date can be tough given all the other demands on IT resources. Tapping your IT resources for ongoing training pulls them in many different directions, often at odds with daily operational responsibilities. At a time when there's immense pressure to cut operational expenses across the board, IT needs to get innovative to take flat budgets up level.

In order to ensure your IT resources stay focused on the critical, strategic projects that promote competitive advantages, one pragmatic option is to consider the benefits of managed service providers. This simple shift can enable more consistency in IT service delivery, often with little up-front costs. The network is only gaining in importance as more capabilities are connected and delivered through it. The optimal solution is to find a way to evolve your network better, cheaper and faster than you can do so on your own.

Taking advantage of the potential for a worry-free network is especially appealing when you consider that you won't be giving up control, the cost of migration isn't what you may think and you'll have the capacity to enable change—whenever you need to.

Control Is Imperative

IT executives have avoided managed services providers due to a hold out for control. With the mandate to cut operational expenses, that perspective may not be the most cost effective. Instead, consider the control made possible by the ability to manage your network—and your service provider—through a single portal interface. Instead of thinking you're losing control, think about it as a shift in objectives.

For example, a communications systems administrator for a 93-location restaurant chain has been able to decrease his involvement with the network by 90 percent. The increased visibility and level of responsiveness from his managed services partner has provided a level of hands-off control not previously available.



Cost Of Migration Less Than Maintaining Status Quo

One of the obstacles to improving networks is the belief that IT needs to leverage existing investments in infrastructure and hardware in the face of budgetary constraints. However, treading water with aging systems is not a bridge to the total cost of ownership advantages made possible by new technologies. Standing still also doesn't help you evolve a network infrastructure that doesn't support current business needs.

What if you could:

- Improve the performance of your network by 70 percent?
- Cut long distance costs by 40 percent?
- Reduce downtime events by 300%?
- Eliminate 80% of your administrative workload?

By choosing the right managed services partner for your network infrastructure, any of these outcomes can be within your reach. Why try to accomplish this yourself when the right partner can help you strategically move to the technologies that enable these outcomes affordably?

Capacity For Change

Your business models are changing. The number of applications riding on the network is growing. IT professionals need to update and upgrade infrastructures faster to ensure that growth in network performance expands their company's capability to complete projects that increase revenues. Based on the exposure for a managed services provider to other companies likely grappling with the same issues, they've got the experience and expertise to help IT departments find viable ways to shift budget to growth initiatives, or even to save money on the bottom line. Change isn't enabled by just getting a bigger pipe. What you need is a network with the flexibility and scalability to serve your customers even better, in new ways. And you need to do it without disrupting the services your network provides.

Putting It All Together

When it comes down to choosing the best path for company growth in the midst of change and static budgets, a managed services partner can help you achieve a worry-free network. Since it's unlikely that the complexity of networks will ease, increasing performance while reducing stress on daily operations pays off financially by freeing resources and by expanding capabilities. Managed services provides affordable access to leading expertise, high quality assets and tools that can make all the difference to simplifying complex infrastructures while simultaneously driving innovations that bring business growth. The worry-free part is a bonus.