



Hewlett Packard Enterprise

**Objective**

Replace aging legacy equipment with a network that is cost effective, standardized, and easier to manage.

Approach

Deployed FlexFabric and FlexCampus solutions for four locations, with standardized design topology and increased bandwidth. Engaged HPE Technology Services (TS) for expertise on the design and implementation across the enterprise and data centers.

IT Matters

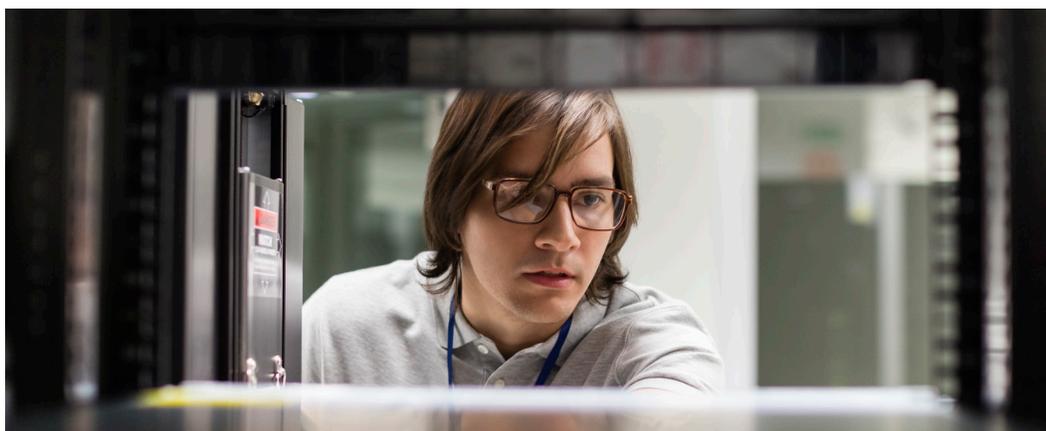
- Operate a network topology that is consistent throughout from the campus and data center
- Simplify management of a legacy network with an advanced management and monitoring system—IMC
- Keep business running with 99.999 percent uptime; no outages.

Business Matters

- Maintain a consistent cost structure and deliver more value to business partners and customers
- Provide real value to business partners to collaborate anytime from anyplace
- Support more partners and customers with 40x more capacity
- Reduce time to service with 10x the performance

Simplified network with a holistic design topology

Pacific Life modernizes network and achieves 40x capacity with HPE Networking



Pacific Life wanted to replace its aging network infrastructure to reduce outages, increase performance, and keep up with business demands. With HPE FlexFabric and FlexCampus solutions, Pacific Life built a state of the art, standardized network that offered 40x more data center backbone capacity.

Aging infrastructure

Pacific Life had an aging network infrastructure that was temperamental at times, making it a struggle to continuously meet business demands. As part of a planned refresh cycle, they chose to completely revamp their data center and campus network infrastructure. “The growth in real-time communications, virtualized systems, and high performance applications required a network with more capacity and higher resiliency. We also wanted to simplify and standardize the network to make it easier for our network and systems teams to manage and use,” said Alex Munro, AVP of Corporate IT Enterprise Technologies at Pacific Life.

“One of the biggest advantages we had with HPE is that we designed the data center network and the building network as an integrated environment, managed with a single-pane-of-glass—IMC. This provided Quality of Service, gigabit to the desktop, 10GbE server connectivity in the data center, and 20GbE access to the core. This upgrade provided us with significant performance increases across the board, in an easy to manage, very holistic experience for the IT department and business users.”

— Alex Munro, AVP of Corporate IT Enterprise Technologies

Seamless transitioning with Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE)

Pacific Life issued an extensive RFP with its requirements for a data center and campus network that could support the growing number of applications the business uses. As a Fortune 500 financial services company, they use insurance policy generation and case management systems, market hedging grids, actuarial grids, HR and ERP systems, in addition to aircraft leasing and real estate loan software, to support their global businesses. Pacific Life has over 3,000 virtual servers and 4,000 end user systems supporting the various business units.

Pacific Life chose to work with HPE because of the partnership and commitment HPE provided from the inception of the opportunity. “Leveraging the HPE Technology Services expertise gave us additional peace of mind that this transition could happen seamlessly, with limited disruption to the business,” said Munro. HPE invested in understanding Pacific Life’s technology business and provided the expertise in place to design a network that met company needs.

Deploying a standardized network

The company’s theory is to pre-configure all network end user VLANs to every location in the campus. The reason being that IT would not know what business group will occupy which floor or section. “One of the biggest advantages we had with HPE

is that we designed a standardized data center network, integrated with every floor of our major buildings, all managed with a single-pane-of-glass system called IMC. This provided Quality of Service, gigabit to the desktop, 10GbE everywhere in the data center and 20GbE to the core. This allowed us a lot of performance, an easy to manage network, and a seamless experience for the IT department and business users,” said Munro.

For each of Pacific Life’s three main business locations, they implemented a data center network consisting of a pair of HPE 12500 switches in each data center core, with dual HPE 5900 switches at the top of every third server rack, leveraging HPE 5500 switches for iLO management. In addition to that, Pacific Life implemented dual HPE 7500 switches in each wiring closet for the Campus LAN user Access Layer. The network at each location was systematically deployed in a phased approach. First, the core networks were cross-connected during the initial weekend cut-over, with routing and switching intelligence moved to the HPE environment. Top of Rack and user access switches were then installed with migrations scheduled over following weeks. This well-planned and thoroughly-tested approach, installed in conjunction with HPE Technology Services, allowed for a smooth migration that was transparent to the users and resulted in no unplanned down time to the business.

Delivering value to business partners

One of the main goals of the IT department is to support the company's business partners who require 24x7 access to the network for systems and users. By leveraging granular access control, the network team was able to delegate closet switch access and management to the decentralized desktop support teams. This resulted in faster service times to end users, and significantly faster setup and access time to core resources in the data centers. What used to take days and multiple tickets relayed between multiple groups now takes minutes to hours and stays within a single group.

The other major benefit was inter-connectivity or increased "East/West" backbone speeds within the data centers. In highly virtualized environments, with multiple applications integrated into BI systems and market valuation and actuarial algorithms, speed between chassis and networks is key. Pacific Life builds and hosts its own data centers, and providing cutting edge network infrastructure to the business is core to its enterprise networking service capabilities.

Pacific Life worked with Aruba, prior to the HPE acquisition, in upgrading the wireless infrastructure across the campus and meeting rooms. Wireless network access is now a key service for mobile employees and guests using iDevices, laptops, and personal devices. "With an affordable cost structure and integrated certificates, the networks deliver value to our business partners and allows them to collaborate without worrying about data plans or access," said Munro.

Benefits of the HPE networking solution

The biggest benefit received from choosing HPE Networking was the standardized network design topology, which made the network consistent from the data center, through the campus, to the end user. This design simplified the network and understanding and training required by Pacific Life's network and desktop support teams. With the new infrastructure, the network became more efficient and was able to support the growth of business traffic. The new architecture provided major increases in throughput, providing 40x more capacity across the data center backbone. It has also been more reliable and consistent in uptime and availability.

The Intelligent Management Center (IMC) is the platform used to help manage the network. "It significantly improved our productivity allowing us to manage both HPE and non-HPE networking equipment. We derive real benefit from proactive monitoring and awareness of how our systems are performing," said Munro.

Before working with HPE, Pacific Life had a lot of copper cabling to the end of row server switches. With the new design, using top of rack switches, Flex Connect modules, DAC cables, and the Intelligent Resilient Fabric (IRF) capability, Pacific Life's copper cabling need was virtually eliminated in its data centers. IRF gives the resiliency and redundancy for every multi-homed system in the data center, with high availability network architecture. By working closely with HPE, Pacific Life was able to modernize its IT network topology and create an infrastructure capable of providing increased value to its business partners and users.

Case study

Pacific Life

Industry

Financial Services/
Insurance

About Pacific Life

Founded in 1868, Pacific Life Insurance Company provides life insurance products, annuities, and mutual funds, as well as offers a variety of investment products and services to individuals, businesses, and pension plans. More than half of the 100 largest U.S. companies are clients of Pacific Life. The total consolidated assets of Pacific Mutual Holding Company, the ultimate parent company of Pacific Life, is \$137 billion USD. For more information about Pacific Life, visit PacificLife.com.

Customer at a glance

Hardware

- HPE 12500 Switch Series (DC core switch)
- HPE 5900 Switch Series (DC edge switch)
- HPE 7500 Switch Series (Campus core switch)
- HPE 5500 (used as iLO switch)

Software

- HPE Intelligent Management Center (IMC) Enterprise and Network Traffic Analyzer module

HPE services

- HPE Technology Services (Consulting and Support)
- HPE Proactive Care

HPE Networking benefits at Pacific Life

The HPE network implementation at Pacific Life helped enable the network services team to provide more value to the server teams, desktop teams, and business users. The standardized design of the network-enabled collaboration from all major company locations, demonstrating how corporate IT is outwardly focused in delivering value to the business, while providing an infrastructure that is agile and flexible.



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