Growing Bank Simplifies IT Management with a Modern Network

The client

The client is a top-ranking bank based in the Midwest. For 15 years, the bank has strived to deliver a unique and entrepreneurial banking experience for individuals and businesses. The bank manages more than $4 billion in assets and deposits, and operates several branch office locations.

The challenge: Address network issues and develop new network architecture to use going forward

As an ambitious and growth-focused organization, the client had acquired IT infrastructure over the years in piecemeal fashion. Their IT organization was struggling with both the disjointed nature of their architecture, as well as the age of components. These aspects made it difficult to ensure security and proper access controls of their network, which were of particular concern to them as a financial institution. Managing their environment had become increasingly complex and taxing on their IT resources.

The bank had also just begun construction on a new building that was to become their new headquarters. The client needed infrastructure to support the new building, and wanted to use the design as the gold standard to follow in the future as they refreshed and enhanced their IT in other locations.

Industry:
Financial services

Insight provided:
- Comprehensive discovery
- Wireless Architecture Assessment
- Greenfield network solution and data center refresh
- Implementation of Cisco ISE, Cisco Catalyst, and Cisco Nexus switches and controllers; Cisco Stealthwatch; and Cisco Viptela

Insight services:
- Consulting Services
- Professional Services

The solution: Greenfield project and data center refresh with Cisco network and security solutions

Our team was introduced to the client's VP of IT, security administrator, and CIS administrator for a preliminary conversation, later meeting with their new CIO. We learned that the bank had never embarked on a substantial infrastructure project before, so this was new territory for them.

We discussed the scope of the project and expectations and performed a thorough discovery. One of their main goals was to increase the security and access controls of their network. After delivering a Wireless Architecture Assessment, we determined Cisco® ISE, Cisco Stealthwatch®, and the latest Cisco Nexus® and Cisco Catalyst® switches and controllers would be an ideal solution. This gave the client access to Cisco DNA™ Center for centralized management, visibility, and troubleshooting.

Another large component of our work together thus far has been evaluating and implementing SD-WAN. The client wanted connectivity for the new headquarters that would seamlessly integrate with existing network elements, and Cisco's Viptela® SD-WAN was a sensible option. From there, we also refreshed key network infrastructure in the client's data center.

The benefits: On-time delivery and an architecture that well deserves to be the new gold standard

Work with the client is roughly halfway done, as we wait for completion of physical construction of the new headquarters. Our project is on track to be completed by the time the building is ready for move in.

Thus far, the client is poised to have modern network infrastructure that offers excellent visibility, analytics, and control. Simplified IT management will help them alleviate IT teams and control/reduce overhead. The Cisco solutions we've implemented for them make use of the latest network technologies, including the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to detect anomalous network behavior.

Securing their network, data center, users, and business overall will be far simpler and more reliable going forward — a key step as they continue to expand their operations.

Benefits:

- Modern architecture design that can be replicated out
- Latest technologies in use, including AI
- Secure, scalable network model

Fast and reliable connectivity across bank locations

Improved network and security controls

Enhanced visibility and threat detection

⁙ Insight.