Data Centre Network Assessment

dimension data

In today's increasingly global and mobile business environment, users expect to connect to applications from wherever they are and expect the same high performance levels from inside and outside the corporate network. At the same time, many organisations are starting to test the waters of cloud computing and considering a move towards private cloud infrastructures. Virtualisation technology is being broadly adopted across all industry segments, given its promise of efficiency gains and cost savings. However, its inherent flexibility – involving multiple virtual machines residing on a single server and being automatically provisioned, de-provisioned or migrated between servers, data centre racks or even different data centre facilities – presents significant challenges to networks.

Dimension Data understands that the network forms the **foundation of the data centre**.

The network is the enabling backbone upon which the success of consolidation and virtualisation projects and IT departments' ability to support new application rollouts, traffic growth and increasing numbers of connecting devices depends. However, limitations in traditional data centre networks mean they are rapidly becoming bottlenecks to the creation of efficient and virtualised data centres that can support organisations' evolving needs. The reasons for this are many. Oftentimes, data centre technologies and trends are adopted in a piecemeal fashion, without due consideration of how they will impact the network. Ongoing innovation in the data centre network technology domain has seen the emergence of specialist products that can ensure a stronger and more resilient network architecture. However, many organisations are not aware of these technologies or unsure of which are most appropriate for their environment.

For these reasons, the importance of gaining a thorough understanding of how such projects affect the network and how network architectures need to be geared to ensure the success of the modern data centre, should not be underestimated. Are you planning a data centre consolidation or virtualisation project? Does your cloud strategy call for a highly available, intelligent data centre infrastructure? Are you concerned as to whether you have a comprehensive and actionable strategic roadmap for investment to ensure that your data centre network will support these projects? **If the answer to any of these questions is 'yes', Dimension Data can assist.**

Data Centre Network Assessment

Dimension Data's Data Centre Network Assessment

Dimension Data's Data Centre Network Assessment is designed to assist you in creating such a roadmap, utilising best practice, market experience and the latest innovative thinking to **ensure your network architecture will meet your current and future business objectives**. Specifically, the assessment is designed to deliver the following advantages:

- **Business Agility** – more efficient data centre networks provide you with a platform to quickly and easily provision existing and new services.

- **Cost Savings** – modern, efficient and converged networks result in lower operating and support costs as well as a long term reduction in capital expenditure.

- **Virtualisation Support** – the network architecture will be optimised to support virtualisation, and will be able to scale to meet virtualisation requirements and growth.

- **Improved Management** – consistent network management across the entire network infrastructure results in improved ability to support and monitor the various elements, reducing overall complexity.

- **Improved Performance** – enhanced network capacity, along with accelerated application performance and availability combine to provide users with improved quality of experience when connecting to applications over the network.

- **Business Priorities** – deliver efficient and flexible operations to enable business priorities such as improved compliance posture and reduced costs.

- **Enhanced financial planning** – budget and financial planning is made easier by the availability of a roadmap that can be used in combination with the business' strategic planning.

Our approach

The Data Centre Network Assessment is aimed at gathering the appropriate insights to allow us to guide you through the process of ensuring your current data centre network architecture and infrastructure will support your existing IT operations and continue to adapt to changing market dynamics and trends.

The assessment involves our undertaking a thorough analysis of your existing data centre network architecture and infrastructure and making appropriate recommendations. Next, these recommendations are aligned with your organisation's broader IT strategy and business objectives to create a clear roadmap that will assist you in planning and prioritising current and future projects.

The assessment is conducted by an experienced Dimension Data consultant through a facilitated workshop. The latest technologies and architectures are discussed and explained and their advantages and level of appropriateness to your particular environment are evaluated.

During the workshop, we also explore an organisational-specific scenario in detail. We analyse the information collected against reference architectures and defined best practices. Thereafter, we develop suitable recommendations and actionable roadmaps. The full report is then presented to you during a feedback session.

Included in the scope of the assessment are:

- Network architecture/s
- Server access switching (physical and virtual)
- Network convergence
- Application delivery infrastructure
- IP address management infrastructure
- Data centre interconnect (where multiple data centres exist)

Why Dimension Data?

Dimension Data understands that the network forms the foundation of the data centre and is under significant pressure from consolidation, virtualisation, changing computing models, increases in traffic and growing numbers of connecting devices. Without an appropriate network platform in place, you limit your chances of reaping the benefits that a fully evolved and virtualised data centre promises.

Our data centre network teams offer a range of best practice solutions that help your business mitigate and manage the risks associated with complex data centre network environments. Our consultants have the appropriate technical and commercial credentials to provide you with relevant insights and practical advice. Members of our teams have on average 10 years of IT infrastructure and consulting experience.

Additionally, Dimension Data:

- Has designed, built and managed over 8,500 IP networks worldwide enabling more than 12.5 million users to connect to their organisations' networks

- Supports and manages more than $30 bn of equipment across the world on a 24x7x365 basis

- Is a Cisco Gold Partner in 33 countries

- Over 5,800 multi-vendor certifications across the globe

- #1 Cisco DCN partner – 5 DC / virtualisation awards in the past 3 years

- Riverbed RASP certified globally

- Employs over 370 CCIEs – the largest number outside of Cisco

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we could assist you establish your data centre network capability and help you pave the way to extracting more value from your existing and planned investments. To set up an appointment, please contact your nearest Dimension Data office.

For more information about Dimension Data please visit
www.dimensiondata.com/networkintegration

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