



NEW CORPORATE NETWORK FOR CORPUS SIREO

A homogeneous, flexible and secure communications landscape simplifies the real estate group's work and delivers added security, agility and availability

As one of Europe's largest asset managers with 11 locations, CORPUS SIREO relies on a cutting-edge, flexible communications network. As part of the migration to Windows 7, it transpired that its WAN, which was hosted by two different providers, did not have the requisite performance. CORPUS SIREO therefore wanted to use a state-of-the-art, homogeneous and fully managed corporate network throughout the group in future. T-Systems implemented a virtual private network based on MPLS Intra-Select as the WAN platform. Juniper switches are used on the local area network (LAN). The wireless network (WLAN) and Voice-over-IP technology are operated using products from Cisco. CORPUS SIREO uses RCI (Remote Connect Internet) as the dial-in solution. Thanks to this all-round, worry-free package, all communication at CORPUS SIREO has been significantly simplified and is now far more flexible. The simple, secure means of dialing in from outside and easy adaptability to mobile devices ensure ideal support for the company's business, which depends on close contact with customers.

AT A GLANCE

- Fully managed VPN as a corporate network for 11 locations
- IntraSelect MPLS replaces Flex Solution and direct data connections
- Best-of-breed LAN infrastructure with Juniper and WLAN infrastructure with Cisco
- Maintenance service within four hours and with 98.5 % availability for network ports
- Simplified communications and synergies for the whole group
- All-round, worry-free package for data and voice thanks to defined SLAs

"The standardized network has made a key contribution to greater IT security, faster data transfer and more efficient work at CORPUS SIREO," says Friederike Buchheister, Executive Director Information Technology, CORPUS SIREO Holding GmbH & Co. KG.

THE REFERENCE IN DETAIL

THE CUSTOMER. CORPUS SIREO was created in 2007 through the merger of the real estate company Corpus (founded in 1995) and the asset manager Sireo (founded in 2001). The CORPUS SIREO group manages real estate worth around EUR 16.3 billion throughout Europe for companies, insurers and banks and has just under 550 employees at 11 locations. It offers all-round solutions for acquisition, management and marketing with a view to increasing the value of real estate portfolios or individual properties. Its holistic approach in real estate consulting ranges from analysis, purchase and management, with the objective of optimizing value, to sale. The group's nationwide footprint, local networks and cooperation with potential tenants, estate agents and other service providers enable personalized support for each customer. All parties benefit from efficient controlling by means of audit-proof processes, reliable reporting and tried-and-proven, innovative IT tools. The international insurance group Swiss Life acquired CORPUS SIREO, the leading independent real estate asset management service provider in Germany, from the Sparkassen savings banks.

THE TASK. What prompted CORPUS SIREO to consider restructuring all its network was the rollout of Windows 7, which in some cases revealed performance problems in the existing WAN. There were, in fact, two networks: The MPLS Flex Solution network operated by T-Systems at Sireo's 11 locations and a corporate network with, among other things, point-to-point connections (direct data connections) between the other locations, which were operated in-house. Regardless of the rollout of Windows 7, this meant there was already a bottleneck at Net Cologne's data center, where the two networks converged. As soon as a new server was set up or other networks were released, the different technologies necessitated time-consuming adjustments to the firewall and complicated authentication procedures for both networks, mainly affecting HitNet access. All that gave rise to the desire not only to establish a homogeneous network (WAN) for all locations, but also a standardized technology within it (LAN and WLAN). In addition, connection to the Internet was no longer to be possible only via cable, but also for mobile devices via WLAN from CORPUS SIREO's locations. The group demanded a system that was where possible fully managed for all networks, without the need to invest in new hardware.

THE SOLUTION. Instead of the former hybrid setup of in-house operation and outsourcing, CORPUS SIREO now has a consolidated, homogeneous VPN (virtual private network) that is based on the IP protocol and fully managed by T-Systems across all locations. As part of homogenizing the WAN, T-Systems migrated its existing MPLS Flex Solution to the latest technology IntraSelect Fixed Connect. This entailed replacing copper with fiber-optic technology and so end-to-end doubling of the bandwidths for just about all locations. As a result, the problems with Windows 7 were resolved for good. In order to ensure ideal transfer of the various types of data and a stable network, four quality of service (QoS) classes

were defined for the WAN. Also integrated in the MPLS network is a standardized Internet connection that is perfectly protected thanks to the latest firewall systems and data rules. A best-of-breed solution tailored to CORPUS SIREO's needs was implemented for the LAN (with a Juniper infrastructure) and the WLAN (with a Cisco infrastructure). The central components for the Voice-over-IP telecommunications system are Cisco's Call Manager servers in T-Systems' data center. The new LAN provides a streamlined and transparent IP address structure based on the defined locations. The issue of authentication was also resolved ideally on the basis of MAC (media access control). Across all locations, secure guest access is logically separated from CORPUS SIREO's network via WLAN. Employees with the relevant access permission can use RCI (Remote Connect Internet) to dial into CORPUS SIREO's VPN securely from outside. Security and availability are governed by SLAs. Maintenance service within four hours (with S4) is defined and each network port has a guaranteed availability of 98.5 % a month.

BENEFITS TO THE CUSTOMER. All communication at CORPUS SIREO is now far simpler and more available thanks to the homogeneous network. Workstations communicate directly with their servers far faster, which has a positive impact on work results. Especially important for CORPUS SIREO are the new synergies it has obtained from standardized Voice-over-IP telephony for the whole group. Unlike earlier, when the CORPUS SIREO network had two gateways to the Internet, there is now also greater security. Potential attacks from the Internet have been reduced by half. Even greater security has been created by the new authentication system from Active Directory, which administers and controls access rights in the background. Extensions due to new staff are also no problem as the group grows. The solutions can cope with an increase of around 10 percent in the workforce without any problems. Phones that were previously not able to be integrated in the system can continue to be used thanks to the new switches and do not have to be replaced. IntraSelect MPLS with Remote Connect Internet enables quick and easy dialing-in from anywhere. In administrative terms, CORPUS SIREO now has just one competent point of contact – T-Systems – for all networks and hence an all-round, worry-free package for data and voice.

CORPUS SIREO REAL ESTATE

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