



Standardizing a global network to create a connected tomorrow

Why NTT needed a standardized, global network

Operating in roughly 300 locations across the world, the technology solutions leader needed a secure, reliable network that would connect its people. Standardizing their infrastructure would not only lower costs, but it would reduce time spent maintaining disparate technologies. It would provide them with visibility of their entire network, enabling them to roll out any security measures that might be necessary.

How a secure network was created for their 43,000 end-users

Leveraging the combined skills of its global experts allowed NTT to design and implement a solution that supported their business strategy. Drawing on their expertise, they were able to choose the best technologies to keep their people - and clients - safely connected. Standardizing offered them the critical visibility needed to create proactive security measures and roll them out.

What a secure SD backbone meant for intelligent businesses

Securely connecting their people across all of their global locations allows NTT to create a truly collaborative, intelligent environment. SaaS, like Office 365 applications are performing better. The time and cost savings achieved through this project enables the company's employees to work together to achieve great things, for their clients, their communities, and the world.

'Deploying a secure network across our global business has given us visibility of our entire network. It's freed up our people to concentrate on doing things that'll help us change the world.'

Challenge

Why NTT needed a standardized, global network

Security is paramount for the intelligent enterprise. As a global technology solutions provider, NTT relies on their cybersecurity capabilities to protect their people, their clients and their day-to-day operations. Creating a secure network for the entire organization was a key focus in ensuring their business was future-proof.

Drawing from the shared skills across the organization, a team of experts were assembled to create a shared service for the deployment and operation of a managed WAN environment.

With awareness around the company's strategy and goals, security was front of mind when designing the solution. They were already seeing frequent cyberattacks across their operations and leveraging a single managed network service was essential in preventing this.

Any network solution deployed had to be secure, while still offering enough flexibility to support the evolution of a massive global organization. In addition, it had to support a global, intelligent workforce who rely on collaboration tools to work effectively. Any downtime would have a negative impact on their operations, affecting not only their staff, but their clients too.

Solution

How a secure network was created for their 43,000 end-users

Leveraging the skills and expertise from across the organization meant the best people were utilized during each stage of the project. After analyzing the needs of the organization, the team decided on a Cisco-based solution. Using Cisco's routing and security solutions, they created a managed network environment that gives them complete control over their entire network.

This control is critical given that the company's sponsorship of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics makes it a larger target for cybercriminals. Minimizing the exposure to risks was achieved by limiting the number of locations accessing the internet directly, with local offices' internet directed through regional breakouts. The different offices and branches are classified by their status, creating a hierarchy which determines how each location accesses the internet.

Cisco IWAN was initially rolled out as a primary part of the solution, providing the security and flexibility needed. Cisco SD-Wan is being implemented in parallel, and will replace all IWAN instances, standardizing the entire network.

The successful implementation of this solution across the 300-odd sites around the world was made possible through the long-term partnership with Cisco. The massive undertaking of connecting 43,000 end-users to a secure network was achieved by having global experts design and implement a comprehensive solution.

Outcome

What a secure SD backbone meant for intelligent businesses

Through the SD backbone project, NTT Ltd. was able to gain visibility across their entire global network. By standardizing their infrastructure, they were able to increase their security posture, reduce costs, and create a more agile network. This new network can evolve with the business, allowing additional locations to be added quickly and easily. The data centers that deliver mission-critical services to their clients are secure and connected by a robust, reliable network.

Updates and patches are rolled out quickly and efficiently, without affecting the network's uptime.

Standardized network policies are easily enforced across all of the global locations. The result is that internet access is more carefully controlled, reducing the risk and exposure of all end-users. Their global workforce can connect across all locations. This enables their people to drive innovation, changing how intelligent businesses connect today, creating a truly connected world tomorrow.

Which technologies?

- Cisco ISR technologies
- Cisco ASA software
- Cisco Firepower Firewall
- Cisco IWAN ASR Platform
- Cisco Cloud Management Platform
- Manage Center
- Symantec SSL

Which services?

- Global Delivery Center (GDC)
- NTT Security SOC
- Advanced Threat Detection Services
- GSOA Services
- Managed Network Services
- NTT connectivity

Which partners?

- Cisco
- Symantec