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Renowned Army group engages Force 3 for IPv6-compliant Cisco Network infrastructure

With a lineage tracing back over 50 years, the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (USACHPPM) has over 50 buildings on its Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, campus and approximately 1,500 team members, as well as five subordinate commands globally.

Challenge

A linchpin of medical support to combat forces and of the military managed-care system, USACHPPM provides worldwide technical support for implementing preventive medicine, public health, and health promotion/wellness services into all aspects of America's Army and the Army Community. However, with an antiquated network that couldn't support IPv6 compliancy, the organization needed a technology partner to help ensure it could continue anticipating and rapidly responding to the Army's operational needs. USACHPPM selected Crofton, Maryland-headquartered Force 3, Inc., to implement an advanced, IPv6-compliant Cisco core network. Founded in 1991, the 300-employee Cisco Gold Partner with an additional office in San Antonio, Texas, is one of Cisco's top federal partners, delivering, supporting, and maintaining IT products and implementation services for numerous federal agencies. "USACHPPM's network maintenance contract was up for renewal and it didn't make sense for them to further invest in its existing, noncompliant system," says Todd Leskoski, Account Manager, Force 3, Inc.

"The previous network was disparate and without a functioning diagram, and the Center



was spending a lot on network maintenance costs annually. "USACHPPM needed an IPv6-compliant solution delivering

standardization and scalability, and liked the idea of going with a partner and manufacturer offering a breadth of products and expertise specific to the federal space. Force 3 and Cisco filled these requirements."

"Implementing a secure, reliable, compliant network... is not about a single product or set of products. It's about solving an operational objective."

— Jason Oh
Force 3
Manager of
Network
Solutions





Solution

Force 3 began the ongoing core network implementation in September 2008, installing Cisco Catalyst 4500 and 6500 Series switches and Cisco 2800 Series Integrated Services Routers to provide USACHPPM the performance, availability, and reliability needed to scale mission-critical applications even in the most demanding environments. Force 3 provided USACHPPM centralized network management capabilities via Cisco's Network Compliance Manager that identifies and corrects trends that could lead to problems such as network instability and service interruption. Force 3 installed CiscoWorksLAN Management Solution (LMS) to give USACHPPM a suite of powerful management tools that simplify network configuration, administration, monitoring, and troubleshooting.

Finally, Force 3 implemented a robust Cisco security solution including Cisco 5500 Series Adaptive Security Appliances (ASA) and the Cisco Security Monitoring, Analysis, and Response System (MARS), and Cisco Access Control Server (ACS). Together these advanced solutions provide USACHPPM strong user/device authentication and an end-to-end topological view of the network and intelligent threat defense and secure communications services that stop attacks before they impact operational continuity.

Results

USACHPPM's Force 3-implemented Cisco network architecture is approved by the Joint Interoperability Test Command (JITC) and the Technology Integration Center (TIC), comprised of components on the Army's Approved Products List (APL). "USACHPPM's standardized, secure core network is an integrated fabric versus its

previous patchwork of disparate systems," says Leskoski. "The solution is more automated and far easier to manage and maintain, and enables administrators to be more proactive about network operation. It also gives them a lot of features and functionality they didn't have prior, including robust logging and reporting capabilities." Jason Oh, Manager, Network Solutions, Force 3, Inc., concludes, "Implementing a secure, reliable, compliant network for USACHPPM is not about a single product or set of products. It's about solving an operational objective. And we look forward to continuing to partner with USACHPPM to help meet future mission goals."

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