Faster onboarding and increased availability drives growth at Oceanet Technology

HPE Networking saves time and simplifies network management to reduce risk

Reducing human error through increased automation

“Trying to create a stable and highly available environment for our customers was a challenge,” states Guillaume Sachot, infrastructure manager with Oceanet Technology. “As a service provider with numerous customers, there are a lot of moving parts. If just one piece of configuration information is missing when moving a virtual machine (VM) from one data center to another, the customer can be without that workload for one to two hours. For us, that’s simply unacceptable.”

Headquartered in Nantes, France, and supporting hundreds of customers out of three main data centers, Oceanet Technology offers a broad data center and managed services portfolio, including colocation, web hosting, and public, private, and hybrid cloud services. Over 40 technicians are focused on delivering secure and highly available services backed up by disaster recovery capabilities.

“We needed to completely replace our legacy network,” explains Sachot. “It was difficult to maintain, and trying to evolve a ten-year-old design to meet the needs of today’s customers wasn’t worth the effort or money. After many years of evolution, we needed to start from scratch. We also wanted to leverage Software-Defined Networking (SDN) to reduce the risk of human configuration errors through increased automation.”

Choosing the right partner

“After employing an independent consultant to help us with the data center network design and confirm our choices, we decided that HPE Distributed Cloud Networking (DCN) and HPE FlexFabric switches would...
“Our customers have benefited significantly from our deployment of HPE Distributed Cloud Networking and HPE FlexFabric. They now enjoy increased reliability, faster onboarding, and improved customer support since our focus is on them and their needs, instead of on configuring networks. Everyone’s a winner.”

— Guillaume Sachot, Infrastructure Manager, Oceanet Technology

best meet our needs,” continues Sachot. “We ran a proof-of-concept using an early version of DCN, only to find that one feature we needed wasn’t available in any product on the market at that time. But we knew DCN was the best solution for our needs and just waited for the feature to be implemented. Within six months we had the feature we needed and could begin deployment.”

HPE Distributed Cloud Networking is a comprehensive, open, and agile data center networking solution that unifies private, public, and hybrid clouds by virtualizing existing data centers and allowing network resources to be easily controlled through Openstack, Apache Cloudstack™, or VMware® vCenter. Leveraging business logic and an intelligent policy engine, DCN scales to address the stringent demands of multi-tenant data centers. HPE FlexFabric switches provide the foundation for building an automated and agile data center network that can respond to dynamic workloads, fully exploit virtualization and SDN technologies, and rapidly provision multi-tenant cloud environments.

Realizing the benefits

“The combination of HPE Distributed Cloud Networking and HPE FlexFabric has reduced the provisioning of network resources for a simple customer environment from two hours to just five minutes,” states Sachot enthusiastically. “And since everything is done in the software layer, we never have to reconfigure our base data center network, eliminating a popular cause of downtime. Now we can scale easily and have a much more reliable network since changes are minimized.”

“We’ve also been able to significantly enhance our disaster recovery capabilities,” adds Sachot. “Of course, the physical network needs to be there, but creating a replica of the network means simply importing the configuration and testing it. As a result of HPE technology, we’ve been able to accelerate our disaster recovery capabilities from one to two weeks to just one to two days.”

Sachot concludes: “Our customers have benefited significantly from our deployment of HPE Distributed Cloud Networking and HPE FlexFabric. They now enjoy increased reliability, faster onboarding, and improved customer support since our focus is on them and their needs, instead of on configuring networks. Everyone’s a winner.”

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