

Fulham Football Club confronts challenges with WAN solution & Hosted Firewall

Challenge

Fulham FC was experiencing increasingly frequent Network failures which were impacting on it's application performance. The existing Network was proving slow and increasingly inadequate to cope with the demand of WiFi for fans and media on match days, and Internet access for delegates at the many corporate events the club holds.

Fulham FC began to look for alternative solutions that would provide Network resiliency, reliability and sufficient bandwidth to cope with increasing capacity demand.

The new Network not only needed to support corporate applications, but also third parties who needed to access the Network whilst providing a high level of resilience to ensure the Network didn't suffer outages.

Another important consideration was the addition of new Cloud services the club was looking at adopting. Services such as CCTV and corporate governance solutions which would allow the club to improve its current services, while minimising capital expenditure costs.

Solution

Fulham FC recognised increased bandwidth capacity on its Wide Area Network (WAN) would be a high priority and sourced a partner which could provide high-speed, quality Internet access for all its new services.

Exponential-e was chosen to design and deploy a new WAN for Fulham FC after being selected following a rigorous process including proposals from two Tier-1 WAN providers. The deciding factors were Exponential-e's ability to converge multiple services across the WAN and the simplicity of the Network solution put forward.

Exponential-e worked closely with Fulham FC to deploy a three site WAN that connects Fulham FC's Craven Cottage Stadium with the Motpur Park training facilities and the club's third party ticketing partner.

Exponential-e's Layer 2 Virtual Private LAN Service (VPLS) provides Fulham FC with a highly resilient platform that enables multiple services to seamlessly converge over a single Network - offering a simple and easy-to-manage design.



FULHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

Fulham Football Club (Fulham FC) is the oldest of London's first class clubs. Its long history began back in 1879 with some Sunday-school boys knocking a ball around on a long-forgotten park pitch. All a far cry from the international players that make up the Premier League team of today.

DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT

"Exponential-e were the only provider that delivered a simple yet sophisticated solution which securely separated and converged multiple services into one connection."

Alex Malinov - IT Director,
Fulham Football Club.



The new high bandwidth connection and added Network resilience immediately addressed Fulham FC's issues with Network reliability while Network capacity was increased tenfold. The extra capacity gave Fulham FC the scalability to take forward plans to deploy new applications and services across the Network such as VMware, Guest Wi-Fi and IP CCTV.

VPLS technology also enabled the Craven Cottage and Motspur Park sites to be backed up with diverse connections to provide additional resilience against Network outages. They have two server rooms at the stadium, a primary and a backup one, and have a primary and backup VPLS from Exponential-e going into each one. Both of these take separate routes out of the stadium for resilience.

By centralising their data circuits and hosted firewall Fulham FC have been able to provide a secure, resilient and high bandwidth WAN which is managed and maintained 24 / 7 x 365.

Fulham FC decided to connect to its ticketing partner's Network via a Centralised Firewall which sits in the Exponential-e Cloud and provides

an additional buffer for the club's Network - further mitigating the risk of a breach. Hosted from secure tier 3 Data Centres, the Centralised Firewall is not only highly secure, but allows Fulham FC's IT team to change security policies and routing themselves from one central point, providing the club with complete control over its security.

By using separate VLANs for Internet, data back-up and ticketing, Exponential-e was able to maintain separacy of each service and provide Fulham FC with additional security, while removing complexity from the solution.

The simplicity of the Network design also enables Fulham FC to provide controlled access to its Network in support of third party events held at the club, increasing the quality of service it provides to its fans, patrons and corporate customers.

BENEFITS

Fulham FC now has a state-of-the-art 3 site WAN with increased capacity and resiliency. The club has enjoyed 100% uptime on the Network since the deployment. The additional bandwidth and Network simplicity has allowed Fulham FC to securely scale up Network bandwidth for third party events such as the UEFA Cup Women's final and Socceraid.

RESULTS

- Tenfold increase in Network capacity.
- Secure, resilient and high bandwidth WAN.
- Network topology designed to provide seamless Connectivity between three sites.
- Robust Centralised Firewall security.
- Extra resilience mitigating the risk of Network downtime.

ABOUT EXPONENTIAL-E

Innovation is at the core of Exponential-e, and has been since our inception in 2002. We wholly own our super-fast Network, and our fusion of complementary technologies - a carrier-class Network and Cloud infrastructure - means we can deliver enterprise applications at wire speed for a superior end-user experience. We deliver scalable, dynamic and bespoke solutions. Renowned for our

responsiveness, coupled with our customer centric approach, and a UK based 24 / 7 x 365 service desk, means we offer unrivalled expertise.

To find out more about Exponential-e visit www.exponential-e.com/Fulham-FC or email info@exponential-e.com



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