



Case Study

Technology provider to the financial services industry relies on Datalink to establish, migrate to, and manage two new data centers.

The client

The client is a leading U.S. company that helps financial institutions manage risk while increasing productivity and profits.

The challenge: Design nimble hybrid data centers and create a plan for “surgical” migration out of the parent company’s IT infrastructure

The client was utilizing its parent company’s data center. Faced with rapidly evolving customer expectations, that data center was not agile enough to meet its needs. When the parent company began to contemplate a data center relocation, the client decided to extract its workloads and set up its own data centers. As a stepping stone to a long-term (5+ years) goal of utilizing public cloud resources, they wanted to move to a private, hybrid cloud environment.

One of the hurdles the client faced was that its IT group was not up-to-speed on the latest infrastructure technologies. Consequently, education was a critical component of this interaction with Datalink, as was the identification and selection of colocation sites for their new data centers. Ultimately, what they were looking for was a complete turnkey solution to address computing, network, security, storage, backup, field services, managed services, and data center migration.

Industry:

Technology

Location:

Southeastern U.S.

Solution:

- Two state-of-the-art data centers
- NetApp® flash storage
- Cisco® UCS®, ACI network, firewalls and ISE
- Veritas™ NBU and appliances
- VMware
- F5 Networks

Datalink services:

- Consulting services
- System design
- Managed services
- Residency

Benefits:

- Greater speed and responsiveness
- Increased efficiency and productivity
- Extensive scalability
- Better customer experience
- Improved backup and disaster recovery capability
- Better security
- Staff freed to pursue higher-level business objectives



The solution: Two cutting-edge data centers, data migration, and ongoing management

The project — which touched on every competency area in the Datalink services portfolio, from assessment and architecture to migration, security, and managed services — started with consultants gaining an in-depth understanding of the client's current challenges and its short-term and long-term goals. In the process, the Datalink team educated the client's IT group about infrastructure technologies, from traditional systems to converged and hyperconverged solutions. They also explained how Datalink could help manage and support the new infrastructure, and augment the client's IT resources through residency.

Because the client's workloads were being extracted from the parent company's data center, Datalink's methodology for producing a detailed and precise application dependency map was critical to the success of the project. Using accurate information on the relationship between workloads and infrastructure, Datalink and the client could orchestrate the surgical removal and migration of applications without causing any downtime or security concerns.

Two new data centers were built out at colocation facilities with the latest systems from NetApp, Cisco, Veritas, VMware, and F5 Networks. They provide the full technology stack from compute, storage, and virtualization to compliance, data protection, and disaster recovery — all of which will be managed by Datalink.

The benefits: Increased capacity, agility, scalability, and security, and better internal and external customer experiences

With flash storage providing greater speed and responsiveness, the client's internal users will experience increased efficiency and productivity, while its customers will enjoy an enhanced user experience. The new data centers also have the ability to scale as the business grows, so the client's IT group won't be faced with another data migration anytime soon.

The advanced data protection and backup solutions are easy to manage, which will free IT resources to address higher-level business objectives. And the fact that those systems are in place will provide IT and company executives with welcome peace of mind.

Making IT happen

Datalink helps organizations transform technology, operations, and service delivery to meet business challenges. We provide expert guidance on IT investment, working with clients to deliver comprehensive transformations that enhance service levels, support growth, increase operational efficiency, and reduce risk.

Learn more at:
datalink.com