Once around the whole world

Constantia Flexibles digitises all processes worldwide and harmonises the global IT environment

The Constantia Flexibles Group is one of the world's leading manufacturers of tailor-made, flexible packaging, headquartered in Vienna. Reputable international groups rely on the manufacturer's sustainable and innovative products. Represented in 17 countries and with 8,300 employees around the world, the Constantia Group has enjoyed tremendous growth, especially in recent years.

Its product portfolio is impressive, and includes films for pharmaceutical packaging, contact lens cases and crisp packets. One in four yogurt pot lids worldwide is produced by Constantia Flexibles. The company is committed to leadership in technology, premium positioning, customer focus and highly efficient production. In order to further expand its position as the second largest manufacturer of packaging materials in Europe and the fourth largest worldwide, the company has consistently digitalised all processes across all its branches and relies on Cisco products. Digit Solutions GmbH has proven to be a strong partner in this process.

The challenge

The aim was to harmonise the global IT environment and to create a consistent and secure data structure. This was an ambitious project considering that there were many locations and each branch had worked independently up to this point. Communication between the branches and with the headquarters in Vienna was becoming increasingly difficult. The administrative effort and the license costs were huge.

To enable employees to work together more productively in the future, access data securely and become more efficient, the company launched a tender for global digitisation.The aim was to create a centralised system of rules that would be used worldwide, optimise data flow, save hardware and licensing costs as well as increase efficiency and security.

The solution

Alongside major reputable suppliers, Digit Solutions GmbH participated in the tender and won the project. In a three-day workshop, experts for consolidation and digitisation from large national and international companies presented their approach and started planning the global project directly. Three high-availability data centres were initially set up in three steps: one in Europe, one in the US and one in Asia. In the future, the entire data exchange would run in this way, both between the individual locations in the countries and on a multi-national level.

Next, the respective locations were connected, and the infrastructure was then harmonised and consolidated. Cisco SD-WAN technology was introduced to ensure the security and efficiency of the network and to integrate all the locations quickly.

"We started with the Europe region, followed by the countries in Asia and then America", says Dickson Usuwa, CTO of Digit Solutions. "Within Europe we still made a distinction between EU and non-EU countries. The EU has the most demanding legal requirements in the world. We wanted to ensure we had enough time to reflect all this in the new structures. At the same time, we've also developed a sequence to set out which locations will be integrated and how. Ideally employees will not notice any of this and there should be no interruptions to production at any of the locations. We rely on SMART project management for the entire roll-out."

Outcomes

After sizing and equipping the data centres with all necessary appliances, the individual locations were connected to the respective data centres step by step and their processes digitised. The three data centres were set up in accordance with the applicable legal regulations. All data centres operate on a high-availability basis and synchronise data with each other using MPLS connections.

"Now all of the locations make use of standardised storage and back-ups are performed centrally", says Dickson Usuwa. And Andreas Miehle, CIO of Constantia Flexibles Group, adds: "We're very satisfied with our new, digitalised state-of-the-art IT environment. It gives us the necessary security worldwide. We can also control this environment centrally with streamlined processes and keep administration costs low."

We mostly used Cisco products. "For us, Cisco is the only manufacturer that has the necessary intelligence to implement such global and complex projects", says Dickson Usuwa. "The Cisco Nexus switches, for example, gave us the ability to easily create a multi-functional, multi-layer switching infrastructure, which is essential for complex infrastructures such as ours."

Tiana Bätgen, Head of Technical Sales, Digitalization & Transformation at Digit Solutions, adds: "Westcon-Comstor supported Digit Solutions in this project with both a fixed price for the project and a high level of expertise."

Finally, Dickson Usuwa sums up by saying: "It's important for us to have a partner in these kinds of projects who has the expertise and supports us internationally when we contact our customers. Westcon-Comstor understands the Cisco business, obtains the products, knows the connections and the regional conditions. We're delighted to have such a solution-oriented, experienced partner, and for this reason only want to work with Westcon-Comstor in the next projects where we'll be relying on Cisco devices."

Partner:
Digit Solutions GmbH

Partner-Level:
Cisco Select Partner

Cisco proudcts used:
Cisco SD-WAN,
Cisco Nexus switches,
Security appliances

Architectures:
Enterprise, Data centre, Security

Sector:
Production

digit solutions
IT Digitalisierung & Transformation Consulting