



ARTEX SECURITIES ADOPTS VMWARE NSX DATA CENTER FOR ENHANCED MANAGEMENT AND STRONGER SECURITY



INDUSTRY
FINANCIAL SERVICES

LOCATION
VIETNAM

KEY CHALLENGES

- Protect network security and customer data
- Improve network performance
- Upgrade IT infrastructure with minimal capital investment

SOLUTIONS

- VMware vSphere® (vSphere 6.5)
- VMware NSX® Data Center (NSX Advanced 6.3)

Artex Securities is being challenged by the demands of growth in its financial services business. It needs to upgrade its IT infrastructure and, in particular, must strengthen network security and protection of customer data. By deploying VMware vSphere® and VMware NSX® Data Center, it has been able to simplify its network architecture, improve IT management, and take advantage of micro-segmentation to enhance security.

Artex Securities is a small securities company based in Hanoi, Vietnam. Founded ten years ago, it offers brokerage services ranging from IPO advisory to online trading, servicing individual investors, corporations and financial companies.

The Challenge

Artex provides financial services to a growing number of customers and so requires a high-performance, high-availability system that is also extremely secure.

As a small company with limited resources it seeks a solution that is robust and flexible enough to meet its business requirements but does not entail significant upfront investment and can reduce operating costs.

Security is paramount – Artex's business depends on customers holding absolute trust in its brand. Additionally, it must also meet stringent compliance requirements set by the Hanoi Stock Exchange (HNX), Ho Chi Minh City Stock Exchange (HOSE) and the Vietnam Securities Depository (VSD).

At the same time, Artex has embarked on a digital transformation journey. The firm is aiming to reduce the time and cost of its network and security provisioning without the need to invest in replacing the entire network infrastructure.

Behind Artex's growth is the continual expansion of Vietnam's stock market and growth of the wider economy over the past decade. Capitalization of the Vietnam stock market doubled last year, with gains in valuations attracting more investors into the market.

Artex needs to be able to position itself to support the market growth by offering enhanced services with powerful security while reducing the cost of running its IT infrastructure.

“As a financial services company, our business depends on security. By deploying NSX Data Center we have strengthened protection of customer data and improved network performance.”

LUAN TRIEU XA, IT MANAGER, ARTEX SECURITIES

BUSINESS BENEFITS

- 20% reduction in total cost of ownership
- Enhanced security through NSX Data Center micro-segmentation
- Smoother, more efficient IT management
- Improved user experience through more stable network

APPLICATIONS VIRTUALIZED

- Database, Active Directory, HRM / Accounting and Web applications;
- Stock trading application

PLATFORMS

- Lenovo System x3650 M5
- Lenovo Storage V3700 V2

PARTNER

- SaoBacDau Technologies Corporation

The Solution

Artex initially considered deploying new hardware firewall and routers, but after discussion with SaoBacDau Technologies Corporation, a VMware partner, it opted to take a server and network virtualization approach.

With VMware vSphere 6.5, Artex can virtualize the infrastructure and fully utilize IT resources for internal and external customers. vSphere provides a simplified management interface that saves time and simplifies operations for enterprise IT teams.

Through NSX Data Center, Artex has been able to avoid extensive outlays on new hardware, internal firewalls, and security devices.

The Distributed Logical Router (DLR) in NSX enables switching and routing to be done entirely in software embedded in the hypervisor. Because the traffic is now between virtual machines on the same host, internal re-routing is possible instead of going through the core switch, which causes hair-pinning.

Meanwhile, the Distributed Logical Firewall (DFW) provides the ability to micro-segment individual workloads, giving a layer of protection to each virtual machine and ensuring security for both east-west and north-south traffic.

Business Results & Benefits

By selecting network virtualization over traditional and expensive routers and firewalls, Artex has seen a direct benefit to its bottom line. The deployment of NSX and vSphere has led to a 20% reduction in the total cost of ownership, a significant amount for an NSX Data Center implementation.

Because of NSX Data Center, Artex could simplify its network architecture and more effectively optimize network traffic and configure security policies. Service quality across the board has increased by 20%. For customers this means higher network availability, improved performance and faster speeds in IT provisioning and key applications such as stock trading.

Critically, Artex has strengthened network security as a result of the micro-segmentation enabled by the NSX Data Center security architecture. This has also improved data security, achieving one of the prime objectives of the deployment.

“As a financial services company, our business depends on security,” said Luan Trieu Xa, IT Manager, Artex Securities.

“By deploying NSX Data Center we have strengthened protection of customer data and improved network performance. Not only can we ensure interoperability and consistency of security policies, but we can also prevent the lateral spread of threats and enjoy a more efficient IT management system.”

Looking Ahead

SMEs such as Artex need cost-effective solutions that can scale and avoid the need for hefty capital investment.

Currently it is weighing the deployment of VMware vSAN™. Combined with VMware's NSX Data Center and vSphere, this can extend virtualization to storage, ensuring faster deployment and enhanced IT management. VMware vSAN is more cost-effective and more flexible in managing storage policies and offers easier scalability.

Artex is also considering implementation of VMware's virtual desktop infrastructure, VMware Horizon® 7, which can ensure security and ease of management in the desktop environment.

"With this deployment, Artex now has a solid Digital Foundation built on VMware solutions, a flexible and secure base that ensures our business runs smoothly and supports the digital technologies that we need," Trieu Xa added.

