Modernizing Business Continuity with VMware NSX-T

Industry
Engineering solution provider

VMware footprint
VMware NSX-T™

VMware partner
27 Virtual

Key challenges
- Ensure seamless application failover between distributed data centers
- Scale network infrastructure in line with project needs
- Maintain and upgrade network infrastructure without disrupting project work

Solution
Migrated from VMware NSX® Data Center for vSphere® to NSX-T in a phased approach.

Business benefits
The modern network infrastructure meets business continuity needs. Workloads can be easily and seamlessly failed over from one data center to the other and between clusters, ensuring users have access to testing and production environments that support ongoing projects.

An engineering solutions and professional services company and long-time VMware customer prides itself on its ability to deploy technology on schedule and on budget for a variety of clients in the transportation and industrial manufacturing industries. This level of service is key to earning customer trust, ensuring loyalty and achieving growth, but requires always-on, 24x7 business continuity of its IT systems and network spread across North America. The company looked to VMware to help modernize its disaster recovery strategies to ensure it could continue client work no matter what Mother Nature, human error or chance threw at them.

Improving business continuity and infrastructure robustness

Delivering on its business objectives requires robust networking infrastructure that gives project teams the ability to quickly spin up and stage digital twins of customer sites, test solutions, replicate successes in the production environment, and provide the documentation necessary to hand off the solutions to in-house personnel. Many projects are tied to strict service-level agreements (SLAs) that, if not met, may trigger financial penalties and lead to other ramifications to experience, loyalty and ongoing revenue.

As this solution and service provider continued to expand its reach globally, so did its network footprint, requiring three virtual clusters across two distributed data centers across North America. The ability to automatically fail over critical applications from one site to the other would give the company the flexibility and business continuity it needed to ensure projects could be delivered on time and under budget.

According to an engineering solutions engineer, the company had been a loyal VMware customer for years, successfully relying on VMware NSX Data Center for vSphere to manage and secure critical network traffic inside the data center. However, as the network expanded and became more complex, the company needed a simpler operational model to ensure failover between three

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clusters spread across the two distributed data centers. It was clear that the company needed a flexible, elastic network infrastructure to meet these service and user experience demands.

> "NSX-T gives us a new, modern network that is flexible, elastic and secure. Thanks to the folks at VMware and 27 Virtual, we can be agile and react accordingly to the needs of our engineers and customers, no matter what the market or anything else throws our way."

Solutions Engineer

The solution

This customer looked to its trusted technology partner, 27 Virtual, to help modernize its network to meet the flexibility and elasticity demands of today. The company explored several architectural options and decided that it made sense to migrate from NSX Data Center for vSphere to VMware NSX-T, the next-gen, full-stack networking and security platform for modern networks.

The engagement with 27 Virtual and VMware started with a design analysis of the company's existing NSX Data Center for vSphere environment and the development of a plan to conduct the migration without disrupting project work. Then, the combined team started migrating applications in a phased approach. After each migration, the team would test the infrastructure, iron out any issues, and put it into production. The entire project from the initial discovery call to the last migrated workload took less than six months, with much of the work done in specific change windows to minimize disruptions to business as usual.

"There were some hiccups along the way as there are with any migration, especially for a project as critical as our network backbone," the solutions engineer said. "But VMware and 27 Virtual were with us every step of the way, updating, testing and patching right along with us until everything worked as expected."

Business benefits and closing thoughts

Migrating from NSX Data Center for vSphere to NSX-T gives this company a modern network infrastructure that meets its business continuity requirements. Now, workloads can easily and seamlessly fail over from one data center to the other and between clusters, ensuring users have access to the testing and production environments that support ongoing projects. This gives the company's leadership and customers the peace of mind that projects will be completed on time and on budget.

The migration from NSX Data Center for vSphere to NSX-T led to some unexpected benefits, as well. Because workloads can move between sites more easily, it allows engineers to test, upgrade and expand network equipment without taking applications offline. Maintenance is done transparently in the background without users or customers even knowing. Simplifying the network has also allowed this solutions company to consolidate physical hardware, leading to a reduction in capital and operational costs.

"NSX-T gives us a new, modern network that is flexible, elastic and secure," the solutions engineer said. "Thanks to the folks at VMware and 27 Virtual, we can be agile and react accordingly to the needs of our engineers and customers, no matter what the market or anything else throws our way."

Learn more

For more information about migrating to VMware NSX-T, visit vmware.com/go/v2t.

For more help on migrations

Assess your environment for migration using the migration assessment tool. For any additional help, contact VMware migration specialists.