

ONPATH Increases Utilization, Reduces Costs for Large Network Equipment Manufacturer of Carrier IP Switching Systems.

As one of the leading multinational providers of high-performance network infrastructure, this firm designs, develops, and sells products and services that provide the infrastructure used to deploy services and applications over a single IP-based network worldwide.

CHALLENGE

In order to develop and support their product portfolio, the systems manufacturer must maintain and manage extensive test lab environments to validate complex configuration environments and customer issues.

The equipment required for this testing is extensive and expensive to purchase, yet often sitting idle between tests with little sharing across test labs. Utilization metrics of both the test tools and devices under test were estimated at under 15%.

With more products in the pipeline and test requirements on the rise, the firm also had a need to scale the amount of testing and the size of the test configurations. Previous automation solutions were either manual, which is very time consuming, or limited to 288 ports of connectivity per switch before creating limits with blocking. Their extensive regression testing required an automated solution that would enable secure and reliable connections across tests ranging from dozens to thousands of ports. And they were also planning speed upgrades, such as GE to 10GE, as well as to 100GE. The firm wanted to make sure the solution they chose would be both flexible and scalable in order to accommodate all of their current, as well as their future, needs.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CHALLENGE

- Automate critical network testing while working within the confines of a limited budget and existing resources
- Find a solution that could scale for future speeds and test lab expansion
- Eliminate traditional obsolescence

SOLUTION

- ONPATH UCS family and HorizON Software

BUSINESS RESULTS

- More than doubled the utilization of existing test tools
- Reduced CAPEX by requiring less equipment under test
- Enabled scalability to higher speeds and port counts
- Reduced test cycle times to release more products in less time

SOLUTION

The equipment vendor started with ONPATH by purchasing a 256-port UCS 2908 solution for test automation of GE applications. They quickly upgraded to a 1,024-port UCS 2910 solution, allowing them to scale in a fully non-blocked fabric beyond the 288 port limitation they faced with their previous vendor.

The firm invested further in two 3901 chassis with 48-port S-Blades to create new 10GE automated test beds. 48 ports of automation in a compact 1 rack-unit chassis was a perfect start. Shortly thereafter, through ONPATH's unique "Buy Back Program", the firm traded up to a 3903 chassis, providing them up to 144 ports of connectivity. Future plans also include the purchase of ONPATH's O-Blade in order to take advantage its all-optical capability to support 40 and 100Gbps applications in the 3900 family. They also plan to upgrade to ONPATH's new 3912 platform for even more scalability to 576 ports in a single, non-blocking chassis.

ONPATH is the leading provider of scalable connectivity and monitoring solutions for high-performance networks. ONPATH's Universal Connectivity System™ and HorizON™ Software deliver an advanced platform that automates and secures data center and test infrastructure to help network managers conserve time, increase utilization, and save money compared to manual patching or complex mesh switching architectures.

BUSINESS RESULTS

Using ONPATH's solution for automated connectivity of the firm's test lab environment, this network equipment manufacturer was able to increase the sharing of expensive test tools, as well as the devices under test. The solution enabled them to more than double the utilization of their existing test equipment to over 40% in the first year! Further utilization improvement efforts are underway with targets of up to 80%.

In addition, the ONPATH solution saves the firm money by reducing the CAPEX that would otherwise be associated with the purchase of additional traffic generators, test tools, and the devices under test. The ONPATH UCS solution can provide an instantaneous return on investment when additional test lab or test tool expansion is required.

Perhaps the largest, but most intangible value of the ONPATH automation solution is the reduced cycle times between tests. The faster cycles allow products to be released to customers sooner, facilitating faster time to market and generating incremental revenues and profits for the business.

ONPATH provided this firm with a proven, scalable, and secure test automation solution to help them conserve time, increase the utilization of their existing investments, and ultimately save money.