vpro

AGILE NETWORK ENABLES DUTCH BROADCASTING ORGANIZATION VPRO TO CREATE THOUGHT-PROVOKING DOCUMENTARIES

Summary

Company:
VPRO

Industry:
Media and Entertainment

Business Challenges:
Modernize data center network to support video-heavy needs of three public broadcasters.

Technology Solution:
- *QFX5100 line of Ethernet Switches*
- *EX3400 Ethernet Switch*
- *Junos OS*

Business Results:
- *Delivered a superior experience to content editors, producers, and staff creating thought-provoking documentaries*
- *Securely supported three public broadcasters on a shared infrastructure*
- *Met expectations for unparalleled network reliability*
- *Easily migrated to next-generation data center fabric while preserving deep engineering and operations knowledge*

When you want to explore the mind of the universe, learn about copper mine barons in Zambia, or imagine what it's like to be a fashionista in Nigeria, VPRO has a show for you. A Dutch public broadcasting company since 1926, VPRO explores issues in often provocative ways. VPRO's documentaries, investigative journalism, travel series, and other content challenge people to think. VPRO depends on Juniper Networks data center networking solutions to support its media operations as well as the needs of two other Dutch public broadcasters.

VPRO's progressive creative teams explore what's happening on the edges of society and contribute to the public discussion on current affairs, finance, climate change, and more. As people's appetite for VPRO's distinct point of view has grown across Europe and internationally, it needed a more powerful IT infrastructure to support its editorial and production teams as they create content for websites, mobile apps, television, radio, live events, and print.

"As video and audio files get bigger and bigger, we needed more bandwidth to support the need," says Valentijn Flik, lead architect at VPRO.

Editing, storing, and transferring high-definition video places big demands on the network as VPRO's shows take shape. And content producers have more ways to tell the story.

"In the old days, video teams might shoot a single sunset to go with a documentary," says Mattijs de Ruijter, manager of ICT and general affairs at VPRO. "Now they'll make seven recordings to choose from during editing."

The VPRO team also needed to support the technology needs of NTR, a Dutch educational public broadcaster. In addition, VPRO has long shared its architecturally stunning Villa VPRO with BNNVARA, a youth-oriented public broadcaster. Now, all three media organizations share the modern, inviting workspace in Hilversum, the Netherlands.

"Juniper's reliability has allowed us to focus on other strategic projects for many years."

- Mattijs de Ruijter, manager of ICT and production, VPRO

A Scalable Data Center Built for Three Broadcasters

VPRO has used Juniper networking and security products for more than two decades, dating back to the days of NetScreen firewalls.

"It was an easy decision to stay with Juniper," Flik says. "Juniper switching is reliable and performs well."

VPRO's data center is hidden far below the building's undulating grass roof, but it is no less cutting edge. The new data center network is designed for scale, manageability, and sustainability. The data center fabric is constructed using a spine-and-leaf architecture, with the Juniper Networks® QFX5110 Switch acting as the spine device. The 10/40/100GbE QFX5110 switch is optimized for high performance and density in demanding data center environments. The QFX5110 is also used as a leaf device, while the Juniper Networks EX3400 Ethernet Switch is used as an access layer.

With VPRO, BNNVARA, and NTR sharing the same infrastructure, the data center network needed to support multitenancy while remaining flexible. An Ethernet VPN/Virtual Extensible LAN (EVPN/VXLAN) architecture supports efficient Layer 2/Layer 3 network connectivity with scale, simplicity, and flexibility.

"With EVPN/VXLAN, we can maintain network separation among the three companies," Flik says. "EVPN/VXLAN also allows us to extend our Layer 2 networks to other parts of the organization to support our disaster recovery site."

And the VPRO team is not locked in: "We can logically partition the network, but still help each other if there's an emergency," Flik says.

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Investment Protection

The team migrated to the next-generation data center network architecture to reach new levels of performance and scalability while leveraging its deep knowledge of engineering and operating a Juniper network. Juniper Networks Junos® operating system, the single OS for Juniper networking and security devices, is built for reliability, security, and flexibility, automating network operations with precision.

"By migrating to the latest Juniper data center switching, we were able to maintain our knowledge investment in Juniper," de Ruijter says.

The migration from Juniper switches in a Virtual Chassis configuration to a spine-and-leaf fabric with EVPN/VXLAN was smooth. "Running EVPN/VXLAN is very different than before, but it's a very clean technology," Flik says.

"From a business point of view, Juniper delivers what they promise."

- Mattijs de Ruijter, manager of ICT and production, VPRO

High Expectations with No Drama

Editors from VPRO, BNNVARA, and NTR can collaborate easily with production teams on videos and podcasts as well as work with their international media partners. "Now it's much easier for video producers to show low-res versions of content to the editorial department," de Ruijter says.

The powerful data center network can easily scale to support the mission of the three public broadcasters as well as the work of sales and marketing, finance, human resources, and legal.

The media companies are embracing cloud applications for communications, collaboration, file sharing, and storage. "Our new network is cloud-ready," de Ruijter says.

Based on personal experience, de Ruijter and Flik have high expectations for the new data center infrastructure. "Our previous Juniper Networks EX8200 switches ran very reliably," Flik says. "In nine years, the only failure was a single line card."

Having a network that's engineered for reliability delivers a better user experience and also frees up the IT team. "Juniper's reliability has allowed us to focus on other strategic projects for many years," de Ruijter says.

Simplicity Drives Success

The VPRO team is looking forward to another decade of productive partnership. "We have had a very good relationship with Juniper engineers and account managers over the past 15 years," Flik says. "When we deal with Juniper, the technical level is very high, which is nice for a technician like me."

"From a business point of view, Juniper delivers what they promise," de Ruijter says.

Innovative technology and a trusted partnership allow VPRO to do what it does best: stimulate meaningful conversation through television, radio, websites, mobile apps, and live events.

For More Information

To find out more about Juniper Networks products and solutions, please visit www.juniper.net.

About Juniper Networks

Juniper Networks brings simplicity to networking with products, solutions and services that connect the world. Through engineering innovation, we remove the constraints and complexities of networking in the cloud era to solve the toughest challenges our customers and partners face daily. At Juniper Networks, we believe that the network is a resource for sharing knowledge and human advancement that changes the world. We are committed to imagining groundbreaking ways to deliver automated, scalable and secure networks to move at the speed of business.

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