



American Airlines chooses Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Seamless integration of HPE campus switches in a multivendor network

Objective

Refresh an aging campus LAN network in 550 locations globally.

Approach

Deploy HPE campus network switches; engage HPE Services for expertise on the design, implementation, and management of the network.

IT Matters

- Replace 3,500 campus switches globally
- Implement a LAN network based on open standards and interoperable as part of a multivendor infrastructure
- Support 800+ applications
- Deploy a future-proof network that is SDN ready

Business Matters

- Smooth migration of switches at all locations
- Significant savings in capex and opex
- Simplified network with improved performance immediately felt by users
- Seamless experience of staff across the American Airlines and US Airways network following the merger



“The value that HPE provides us is the ability to move away from the traditional concerns of the network organization. We’re talking more strategically about network-enabled applications and the way that those applications behave on our network as well as the advanced capabilities we want to provide our users.”

– Karamu Ford, Managing Director of Enterprise Networks, American Airlines

American Airlines (AA) was looking for a collaborative partner to refresh its existing campus network in 550 locations around the globe. AA partnered with HPE because of its open-standards based network solution that allowed for a seamless migration of their global LAN campus network. The outcome of the refresh was a simplified network with better performance, lower cost, and future readiness.

Open standards sealed the deal

American Airlines campus switches were approaching end-of-life and were due for a major refresh to support the growing number of applications that the business needed. The update to HPE proved to be a natural choice for AA when it tested the HPE campus switches in three pilot locations. The positive outcome of the testing, along with the interoperable features the products provided,

Customer at a glance

Hardware

- HPE FlexCampus solutions

HPE Services

- HPE Services

resulted in AA's decision to standardize using the HPE technology on the LAN. "One of the key requirements for us was the ability over time to integrate other components of the network into an environment where there was not going to be proprietary protocols that would prevent us from, or make more difficult, the integration of tools into the environment. We were looking for open standards for interoperability reasons, and HPE provided that for us," said Ford.

Seamless migration of the campus network

American Airlines migrated 3500 switches across its 550 locations globally—including airports, offices, maintenance facilities, cargo and others. HPE Enterprise Services worked closely with AA in doing site assessments at every site and then moved quickly into the implementation phase. It was a simple rip and replace without incidence. "The execution was relatively flawless," said Ford. The HPE service teams support resulted in overall improvement in the AA network performance. "We know very quickly now when things are occurring in our network that we may not have known before until a user called us. We now know a lot of that proactively."

Benefits of the HPE solution

The HPE solution provided AA a better performing network. "The biggest compliment around the HPE gear that we purchased was on improved performance and perception from our users that the network was performing better." Additionally, AA saw significant amount of savings associated with the HPE implementation with the LAN gear.

AA operates over 800 applications. With HPE, AA spent very little time trying to validate the capability of the technology. All the applications seamlessly interoperated with the HPE gear.

During the course of this refresh project, AA took on one of the largest mergers in the airline industry, creating US Airways and American Airlines to be the largest in the world. HPE established a platform that provided a seamless experience for users on both sides to interoperate and integrate applications across the networking framework.

Future-proof network

The HPE switches are designed to support industry open standards that provided AA the flexibility needed to grow as its business grew. "The value that HPE provides us is the ability to move away from the traditional concerns of the network organization. We're talking more strategically about network-enabled applications and the way that applications behave on our network and the advanced capabilities we want to provide our users," said Ford.

HPE provided AA with a platform that would facilitate the integration of applications and network with all the other aligning infrastructure to provide the forward-looking capabilities of software-defined networks.

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