

SKY NEWS STREAMLINES NATIONAL VIDEO NEWS PRODUCTION

CLOUD COMPUTING | INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS | SERVICE DESK | PROFESSIONAL IT SERVICES | COMMUNICATION | PROCUREMENT



Key challenges

- Bandwidth too limited for video
- VPN over public internet
- No redundancy

Solution

- MPLS WAN through head office

Benefits

- Increased and centralised security
- Reduced equipment
- Redundancy
- Improved performance

Harbour IT delivers Sky News a non-stop network, linking their offices to HQ with fast, secure connection for production of TV news 24x7.

Sky News delivers video news 24 hours a day to more than 2.5 million homes and locations. They operate via Foxtel, Optus and Neighbourhood Cable pay TV networks in Australia and the Sky Pay TV network in New Zealand.

Since its first broadcast in 1996, it has become an essential part of the Australian media landscape.

The wide area network challenge

Reliable access for capital city bureaus

To produce local news stories, Sky News has bureaus in every Australian capital city. Video is stored and broadcast from servers at Sky News' headquarters in Macquarie Park, Sydney and edited for broadcast by staff in the bureaus.

Sky News was using a virtual private network over standard public Internet services to enable the bureaus to connect to head office. This system did not provide sufficient bandwidth to enable video content to be uploaded from the bureaus, additionally and there was no redundancy in the access network.

An established partnership

Harbour IT was managing Sky News' in-house IT systems and was approached along with a number of other potential partners to improve access to the video server for bureaus.

"We selected Harbour IT because we have a good relationship with them. They look after our VM (virtual machine) environment along with our general IT infrastructure for email and administration."

IT Manager, Rick Zecevic

Solution 1: A new nationwide WAN

Harbour IT has built, and now manages, a multi carrier wide area network using multiprotocol label switching (MPLS) technology providing all internet through head office. The solution enables security to be centralised, significantly reduced the equipment needed and provided redundancy and improved performance.

SECURE CORE NETWORK and FAST NEW WAN

CLOUD COMPUTING | INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS | SERVICE DESK | PROFESSIONAL IT SERVICES | COMMUNICATION | PROCUREMENT

Smooth transition to state of the art communications and switching technologies delivers performance and high availability.

The ageing core network challenge

Core network not meeting needs

The core network at Sky News headquarters was showing its age. Maintenance costs were escalating, security was not sufficiently robust and because the network had evolved over a number of years, it was not well documented - further adding to maintenance challenges.

“Every time we added a new service we would add another switch or another router to the core network, just to get things done. We approached Harbour IT and based on their experience and advice we decided to redesign and replace the core network.”

IT Manager, Rick Zecevic

Solution 2. Core network redesigned

Harbour IT worked with the Sky News internal IT team to replace their aging core network. Providing the design and implementation expertise Harbour IT worked closely with the Sky News team to ensure a smooth and uninterrupted transition. The new network comprises of “State of the Art” communications and switching technologies to ensure secure, high performance, high availability outcomes.

The results

Sky News now has a secure and well-documented core network with the flexibility and capacity to accommodate new services. The new wide area network provides bureaus with the ability to edit video remotely as well as providing secure access to corporate IT systems and centralised, redundant Internet access.

Contact Harbour IT to find out how we can help you harness the power of your IT infrastructure

1300 785 926