Financial Regulator Upgrades Communications

Saudi Arabia's Capital Market Authority transforms its operation using Cisco network.

Customer Name:	**Capital Market Authority**
Industry:	**Financial Services**
Location:	**Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**
Number of Employees:	**520**

Business Impact

- **Improved ability to achieve goals due to better collaboration and network performance**
- **Reduced costs from single network and centralized management**
- **Enhanced ability to support future growth with new applications**

Business Challenge

Capital Market Authority (CMA) was set up in 2004 to regulate and develop the newly established financial market in Saudi Arabia. Its responsibilities include monitoring activities, introducing measures to protect investors, and achieving fairness in transactions. Key goals involve developing best practice and helping the market grow rapidly.

From the beginning, the organization wanted to leverage technology as extensively and effectively as possible. However, to achieve its goals, CMA had to ramp up its operation very quickly, and this meant that the communications network needed to be fully optimized. "By adopting a more holistic approach to building our network, we would be able to enhance the entire infrastructure," says Abdulaziz Nassruldin, IT Network and Security Team Leader, CMA. "That would allow us to continue growing and to add new services such as wireless."

The CMA decided to install an end-to-end Cisco® architecture that encompassed a new backbone in the data center and upgrades to the wide-area and local-area networks, including wireless. Network security was a top priority, as were application performance and high availability.

Solution and Results

"The network is very important to our success, and Cisco played a strong advisory role in terms of Network technology, design, deployment and related best practice, ," says Mohammed Almisfer, IT advisor, CMA. "Cisco Advanced Services group reduced our risk by implementing this critical infrastructure."

End-to-end security is achieved through a number of integrated solutions, such as Cisco Security Monitoring, Analysis and Response System, and Network Admission Control, which, together with Cisco Wide Area Application Services, also accelerate application performance. Overall high performance, today and tomorrow, is also achieved through the use of Cisco Virtual Switching System. Centralized tools have made the network both easier to manage and to protect from a range of threats. CMA staff can now use wireless links to work anywhere in the building, while visitors can also get temporary wireless access to a secure area of the network.

The network has been designed to provide a platform to meet CMA's today,s needs with the scalability to meet future requirements over the coming years, including supporting collaboration applications, which typically integrate data, video, and phone capabilities.

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Capital Market Authority

"Our relationship with Cisco was not just a sales transaction; it was a long term cooperation and business relation. As a result, we have created a communications network that will serve our business for many more years to come, and help us to achieve our business goals."

Basem AlShafi
Head of Information Technology, Capital Market Authority

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