

Case Study

Compaq Dubai - Networking in the fast lane

When Compaq Computer FZE decided to move to a new office in the Dubai, Jebel Ali Free Zone, the opportunity was taken to invest in a structured cabling system which would be able to support the organisation's needs well into the future.

The near future will bring fundamental changes in the way organisations use I.T. as increased demands are made for critical information delivery. There is a business need for a fully integrated and managed service delivering optimum network performance and guaranteed Quality of Service as inherent elements of a scalable infrastructure solution. Communication systems can only perform to the quality of the path over which they are running, and this can have a severe impact on effective business operations. Ultimately, the quality of the structured cabling channel can define how well an organisation's business systems can be expected to perform under all operational and environmental conditions.

COMPAQ'S REQUIREMENT

- The Premises Distribution System had to be sized to provide flexibility for future adds, moves and changes
- The system was required to perform to Gigabit Ethernet standards to ensure that the applications needed to support current & future business practices could operate efficiently, seamlessly and interference from devices like mobile phones would not cause errors on the network.
- It was also important that business would not be disrupted at a later date due to poor termination at the installation stage. In essence, once it was in, the cabling system should be able to be ignored, and eliminated from any fault-finding exercises in the future.
- High Quality of Install and proof by 100% testing to the latest extended Cat 5 parameters were deemed essential.

"Our expectations are very high, and with this in mind we looked for a partner that could meet them."

Marc Geenen, MIS Manager, Compaq



THE SOLUTION

ISCS GigaPath was the system selected, an enhanced Category 5 Shielded Twisted Pair cable, as well as a 12 core 50/125 fiber cable. The latter was chosen as the communications and server rooms are more than 120 meters apart. The building has one communications room where all cables from the outlets come together to patch panels. From the patch panels the outlets are patched to either the PBX or the Compaq dual speed switches (SW3322). All switches are connected to the Compaq 5422 Enterprise Switch, which in turn is connected to another in the server room, where all servers are linked to the Compaq Gigabit switch. The system performs to Gigabit Ethernet speed.

THE PROJECT

The building had been specifically designed around the IT infrastructure, while remaining in keeping with local cultural aesthetics. The Arabic domed foyer areas interconnect the site's two buildings at the Reception and Communications Centres.

The installation comprises:

- 8 cabinets at the main data centre
- 5 double high density patching and equipment frames at the Communications Centre
- 50/125 pre terminated modular fiber (PTMF)
- 70km shielded twisted pair cable (ISCS GigaPath), incorporating 930 screened 808 connectors

Case Study

"My experience in IT cabling shows a tendency for organisations to regard cabling as a commodity, resulting in variable levels of install quality and yet it is the foundation on which all the information technology runs. For Compaq, measuring and certifying all installations to high quality recognised standards is the only way of knowing the install quality will meet the technical and thus business requirement. It also is proof that what one pays for is actually done. The new Dubai office was designed from the beginning to easily complement the office cabling infrastructure, resulting in flexibility for change, ease of installation and ease of support. This aids business effectiveness and efficiency"

Gordon Stewart, Premises Cabling Design, MIS Compaq EMEA

DURATION OF PROJECT

Five weeks, despite the fact that available working time was reduced due to the heat.

THE REASONS

- Each installed outlet is 100% tested, and every single test is recorded and audited by the manufacturer. This guarantees total quality of the installation, as well as providing assurance that it will perform as required, to Gigabit Ethernet standards.
- Installation is carried out only by accredited and trained installers. In this instance, it was TeqNet who conducted the installation to such a high standard so as to negate the need for re-working in the future. This means that the impact on people's ability to work, or the risk of disruption of business due to bad cable installation and termination is eliminated.
- This was backed up by full certification to guarantee the quality of workmanship and to ensure that the required performance will be met.
- The certification guarantees 100% error-free application performance for the lifetime of the physical system, together with a 25-year component warranty.
- Because compliance to standards across EIA/TIA, ISO and CENELEC is ensured, Compaq could be sure that its solution would not only provide a high level of performance, but would also be interoperable with other manufacturers' active equipment.

CONCLUSION

The system now installed at Compaq in Dubai is configured for voice and data, and represents a significant advance in terms of the support of the organisation's future business. Many challenges had to be overcome to ensure success, not least having to complete the installation in temperatures of 43 degrees centigrade, and requirements for shipment at short notice, which were met.

"The project certainly provided a range of challenges, which has given us quite an understanding as to the methods needed to be employed in projects conducted in a climatically "hostile" environment."

Mike Sullivan, TeqNet

New, increased levels of reliability and Quality of Service will be required as new ways of working are introduced and new demands are placed upon the IT infrastructure. Organisations will expect systems to work first time, every time. And finally there will be increased service level requirements in support of all these business critical I.T. services. Compaq has such a system.

When choosing its IT infrastructure, Compaq has considered the fundamental changes that will demand ever more critical I.T. requirements. By aligning these with the "big picture" business requirement, the organisation has selected a tailored, fully scalable structured cabling solution to guarantee the delivery of optimum network performance and quality of service capabilities.

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06/05

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