



# A HOT TOPIC IN THE NHS



APPLICATION ACCELERATION



Promoting Growth Through Technology

# REDUCING THE COST OF NHS TRUST REMOTE SITE ICT OPERATIONS WITH CISCO WIDE AREA APPLICATION SERVICES (WAAS)

APPLICATION ACCELERATION

A HOT TOPIC



**Cisco Systems and Voyager Networks have a long-standing commitment to transforming healthcare in the NHS and, over many years, have been able to offer advice and guidance on how technology can deliver clinical, financial and operational benefits.**

## KEY FEATURES & BENEFITS OF WAAS

- Reduce branch site operational, capital and bandwidth costs.
- Increase application reach, employee productivity, sharing and collaboration.
- Reduce the cost of WAN bandwidth while improving end-user performance.
- Offer LAN-like performance to remote users.

One area of constant ICT challenge for NHS Trusts has been the need to distribute servers to remote sites in order to provide the best possible performance for users. This long-term strategy has now reached the limits of scalability and there are two key questions that need to be addressed by Trust ICT departments:

- Can distributed server estates be consolidated into central data centre facilities?
- If so, how can application performance for remote users be maintained without incurring high Wide Area Network costs?

These key areas along with the incremental challenges of providing data protection and compliance mean a new approach is needed where performance and incremental benefits can be gained.

### Consolidation of Distributed Server Environments

National policy for ICT is to adopt a 'Shared Services' approach with applications and data stored at fewer locations, and made available to larger communities of users. There are already examples in the NHS where the approach can be seen to deliver improved cost efficiency and operational benefits.

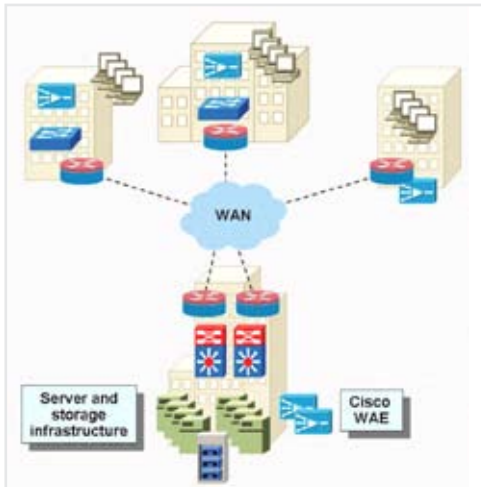
A Shared Service approach within an NHS Trust has the benefit of addressing two of the key issues facing operation of distributed servers. The first of these is manageability which can be difficult and time-consuming

given the pro-active approach necessary to mitigate these threats. The second of these is storage policy, where volume requirements grow continually and there are many new regulatory requirements designed to safeguard the confidentiality and integrity of data.

Trusts must consider carefully the challenges that will be created by remote users accessing all of their critical applications and data over heavily-congested WANs. The behaviour of networking protocols, especially those for file access, has often not been optimised and operation in a WAN environment can often degrade performance for remote office users to an unacceptable degree.

NHS Trust ICT departments need a technical solution that will catalyse infrastructure consolidation into central data centres, by providing remote users with the performance and accessibility to data and applications to which they are accustomed. Cisco WAAS solution provides just such a catalyst by provision of network intelligence both at central and remote sites to enhance remote user operation over the WAN. Cisco WAAS can offer LAN-like performance to remote users connected over a WAN.





Suggested Deployment of Cisco Wide Area Application Engine Solution

### The Cisco Wide Area Application Services (WAAS) Solution

Cisco WAAS is a solution that uses a symmetric approach to application optimisation. Network appliances, called Cisco Wide Area Application Engines (WAEs), on each side of the WAN have application-specific and network-specific intelligence in order to carry out this function. WAEs are available as standalone appliances or as router-integrated network modules. WAEs are deployed outside of the data-path in the data centre and in the remote office LAN.

#### In summary Cisco WAAS:

- Provides optimal performance for applications delivered from central data centres to remote site users.
- Helps minimise WAN bandwidth and its' cost of provision.
- Enables simplified data protection and compliance, enabling effective backup, retention, storage management, and recovery procedures to support remote locations.
- Helps consolidate costly remote site server, storage, and backup infrastructure into data centres, while maintaining LAN-like service levels for remote users
- Provides enterprise-grade scalability and availability, based on Cisco's experience with thousands of enterprise deployments.

#### Further Information

To find out more about Cisco Wide Area Application Services and to understand which deployment option is best suited to your Trust's needs, please contact your Voyager Networks Healthcare Manager.

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**For more information about Cisco Wide Area Application Services visit <http://www.cisco.com/go/waas> or speak to Voyager on 0870 170 9700**

#### About Voyager Networks

Voyager specialises in providing secure Unified Communications solutions to the public sector. As a Cisco Gold Partner and an approved NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA) contracted supplier, Voyager is ideally positioned to support healthcare organisations by improving the quality and cost-effectiveness of their health care delivery in line with their strategic objectives.

As a Cisco Healthcare partner, Voyager is able to offer preferential discounts and have a team of Cisco Certified specialists to meet your requirements. Our expertise includes delivering advanced communication solutions at:-

- West Dorset General Hospital
- Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnerships
- Islington PCT

**For more information please contact Voyager Networks on 0870 170 9700**

