



## Case Study



## Vanix enables asset management firm to reduce its back-up times by a third.

### Overview

To maximise productivity and to meet its compliance requirements, investment advisors at Insight Investment require access to accurate pricing every morning. Bandwidth restrictions however meant that back-ups were running over into the next working day and time-critical new data was unavailable when it was needed.

After a full network assessment, Vanix implemented a solution using Brocade dual core edge switches, enabling Insight Investment to drastically improve its network performance and reduce back-up times by a third, restoring stability in its regulated processes and increasing employee productivity.

### The Challenge

Operating in the financial services industry, Insight Investment is heavily governed by FSA compliance regulations. As part of its regulated processes, investment advisors at Insight Investment need to have the correct pricing at their fingertips at the start of every day.

Providing this fresh data on a daily basis involves a detailed batch cycle to be run over night, however Insight Investment was experiencing problems with the speed of its backups due to bandwidth restrictions, and nightly back ups were starting to overrun into the next working day.

“Bandwidth, particularly overnight is very important,” stated Peter Lethbridge, Head of IT at Insight Investment. “Throughput bottlenecks across the network were impacting performance, and our existing infrastructure was no longer coping with demand and this was causing unnecessary strain on our support colleagues.”

### About Vanix

Vanix is a highly skilled systems integrator specialising in high performance networks across the LAN and WAN.

Working closely with its customers to identify issues and address challenges, Vanix delivers IP based solutions that increase productivity and reduce costs.

**“Vanix were on hand from start to finish with this project, providing us with key personnel who facilitated the whole process with comprehensive attention to detail.”**



## Case Study: Insight Investment

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### The Approach

Disappointed with its existing IT supplier, Insight Investment invited four new IT partners to demonstrate their capabilities and potential solutions to resolve its back-up issue.

IP specialists and systems integrator, Vanix was selected from the four, and quickly went on to conduct a holistic review of the firm's IT network infrastructure. Examining every aspect from design through to bandwidth performance, the resulting analysis identified a number of areas for improvement across the firm's IT architecture.

### The Solution

Insight Investment chose to address the network and storage fabric simultaneously. Through Vanix, Insight Investment engaged with data centre networking specialists Brocade and following a rigorous evaluation process, it became clear that Brocade's BigIron RX and Brocade FastIron SX were the most suitable technology choices for Insight Investment.

The decision to replace the existing network with Brocade was made in October 2008 and the phased deployment began with the core in early December 2008; initially, edge switch links were tested before fully integrating the two cores. The full production environment was live by Christmas 2008, with the remaining POE edge solutions due to being replaced in spring 2009. Insight Investment immediately saw improvements.

"Vanix invited us to visit a reference site to demonstrate first hand how the solution worked," commented Peter McLaren, Infrastructure Project Manager at Insight Investment. "Witnessing how one of their existing customers was already using the technology gave us with the right level of confidence in the proposed Brocade solution."

### The Benefits

Working with Brocade BigIron RX and Brocade FastIron SX switches in a dual core-edge design, the company has been able to reduce overnight back-up times by almost a third, whilst also reducing power consumption and heat production. This has enabled staff productivity to be drastically improved, and allowed much better efficiencies to be gained from the machine rooms, resulting in an overall reduction of operating costs and providing further capacity for growth.

"Since the dual core-edge infrastructure went live, we've seen significant performance and improved stability in our overnight batch processing," said Lethbridge. "The deployment process was seamless and non-intrusive. We experienced zero outages during the transition, which was quite impressive given the scale of change. We have already seen a 30 percent reduction in back up times, and are committed to extending the project to replace our remaining POE edge solutions with help from Vanix."

### The Future

Since the project, Vanix has gone on to provide more resilient switches for Insight Investment, and organised support for its networking infrastructure.

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**"Vanix managed the complete implementation process of our new switches, which went very smoothly with no outages or downtime."**

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**To find out more about reducing your back-up times, contact Vanix on 0870 3521010 email [info@vanix.co.uk](mailto:info@vanix.co.uk) or visit [www.vanix.co.uk](http://www.vanix.co.uk).**