

Case Study

Driving innovation off the track:
Delivering a cutting-edge network transformation

The client

The client is a British motorsport team best known for competing in Formula One, where it is one of the most successful and iconic teams in the sport's history.

Founded in 1963, the team has won numerous championships, including eight Constructors' Championships and twelve Drivers' Championships. The team is based out of their innovation and engineering hub in England, designed to support the motorsport team and high-performance automotive development.

1963

founded

8

Constructors'
Championships

12

Drivers'
Championships

The challenge



Changing requirements

The motorsport team previously shared a traditional Cisco network with its other brand division. However, with new regulations from the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) coming into effect, they were required to establish a standalone network to ensure accurate accounting for the FIA's cost cap calculations.



Financial regulations

These stringent financial regulations, designed to promote fairness and transparency in Formula One, made compliance critical for all teams to remain competitive and eligible for races. Maintaining a shared network with the other division at their joint headquarters, would have impacted their available budget, putting their championship ambitions at risk.



Enhanced environment

Beyond meeting FIA Power Unit Financial Regulations, the new network infrastructure needed to improve financial management processes, enhance data security, and support the growing number of virtual meetings with external partners. Having successfully partnered with Natilik on its existing network, the team trusted them to deliver the advanced wired and wireless solutions required for their new, independent environment.

The solution

With the goal of establishing a robust network to last for the next seven years, every aspect of the solution required meticulous planning and execution. Thorough discovery and design services were critical to ensure success. Following comprehensive scoping workshops, Natilik proposed a cutting-edge solution centred on Cisco's Software Defined Access (SDA) infrastructure, featuring the following key components:

Cisco DNA Centre

A unified dashboard that streamlines the management of the team's network, simplifying all essential management tasks.

Cisco Identity Services Engine (ISE)

Provides enhanced control over the mobile enterprise environment, offering superior visibility into users and devices.

Catalyst 9K Switching

A variety of the latest Cisco switches were deployed across the network to enhance connectivity and optimize data flow.

Catalyst 9K Wireless

Virtual Wireless LAN Controllers, paired with the latest generation of Cisco Wi-Fi 6 Access Points at the time, were implemented to deliver a high-performance wireless solution.

Cisco ASA Firewall (Remote Access)

Ensures secure remote access for the team's employees, enhancing network security and accessibility.





The outcome

The new Cisco network is a major technological investment, going far beyond compliance with FIA financial regulations. By adopting this advanced infrastructure, the team not only ensured regulatory compliance but also realised significant operational improvements across key areas. These outcomes are categorised into four main areas:

Enhanced Financial Management

The new network seamlessly integrates the team's financial systems and applications, significantly improving processes like budgeting, expense tracking, and financial reporting. By creating an independent infrastructure, the team has achieved greater accuracy, efficiency, and transparency, ensuring compliance with FIA regulations while streamlining financial operations.

Data Security and Privacy

Data security is a top priority and the new Cisco network incorporates advanced security measures to safeguard sensitive financial data, preventing unauthorised access and mitigating the risk of data breaches. This ensures the confidentiality and integrity of their financial information, protecting the team from potential security threats.

Improved Collaboration

The network enhances collaboration and communication across the organisation. It provides secure, efficient channels for sharing information and coordinating decisions, offering real-time visibility into the team's performance. This streamlined communication fosters better decision-making and ensures alignment with FIA financial regulations.

Scalability and Flexibility

Built with long-term growth in mind, the Cisco network is highly scalable and flexible, able to adapt to the team's evolving needs. It provides a future-proof infrastructure capable of accommodating both technological advancements and changes in FIA regulations, ensuring continued competitiveness in Formula One.

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