Romanian airports drive new business models while transforming business and visitor experiences

National Company Bucharest Airports

Size: 1300 employees
Industry: Government aviation
Location: Romania

Solutions

- Upgraded data center and network for greater availability and management
- Improved access to applications through pervasive wireless
- Secured IT infrastructure to protect against malware threats

National travel hub inherited aging networks

National Company Bucharest Airports (CNAB) in Romania is an airport operating firm formed from the merger of companies managing the Henri Coandă and Baneasa Aurel Vlaicu airports. It handles 70 percent of all Romanian air traffic, dealing with in excess of 100 airlines and facilities firms.

When CNAB came into being, its inherited technology was far from the modern infrastructure visitors now expect as normal. Wireless access consisted of a few isolated access points in public areas. The fixed network had old LAN switches with a single Gigabit Ethernet uplink. Prone to failure, it could barely carry core IT systems in use by airlines, let alone support IP telephony. This weak IT foundation was not allowing the operator to enter the digital age of pervasive wireless access and high network availability.

Vasile Darla, CIO at CNAB, recalls, "We had a lot of outages and had to do something about it as we were getting so many complaints." The goal was clear: CNAB needed a network upgrade, so passengers and staff could access information with 99 percent availability.

Cisco, along with Crescendo, a Cisco® Gold Partner based in Bucharest, helped install new networking, data center, collaboration, and security equipment over five months with a target of zero downtime.

Transforming the airport experience

CNAB benefits from a reliable, highly available network based on Cisco Nexus® and Catalyst® switches. Real-time information flows more efficiently around the airport, improving service levels across all touchpoints; from check-in and security through to retail outlets and departures. CNAB has transformed the customer experience to be more secure and user friendly.

Crucial information and collaboration are now highly available

Business and visitor experiences are improved with pervasive wireless

Reliable access with tenfold increase in network speed and 99 percent availability

By establishing pervasive wireless access, the airport has transformed traveler and staff experiences with access to real-time flight and airport information, on any device, from anywhere onsite. Staff can also collaborate and work more effectively on the move using the Cisco Jabber® solution, Cisco Unified IP Phones with video capabilities and softphone clients with click-to-dial features. In-airport communications costs have dropped with the usage of IP telephony and Jabber delivered by CNAB on an as-a-service basis.

"We have achieved a tenfold increase in data transfer speeds compared to the previous network," says Darla. "Crucial information and communications are more widely available and easier to access."

This digital transformation has rejuvenated the airport experience. Airlines, retailers, and other airport-based organizations have always-on access to vital data and applications.

Accelerated application response times with near–100 percent availability

The network is protected with Cisco ASA 5500-x Series Firewalls and Cisco Web and Email Security appliances.

With this configuration, CNAB protects against malware while securing and controlling web traffic. The data center has a VCE Vblock, which uses virtualized Cisco UCS® B-Series Blade Servers for enhanced resilience and ease of management. With a highly available infrastructure and centralized automation, the IT team can focus on delivering new service innovation.

In fact, organizations operating in the airport now prefer to use the airport infrastructure, because it's more secure than their own. In addition, the airport's Cisco network can be partitioned to form VLANs supporting a multitenant environment, enabling the airport to become a service provider to airlines and other businesses. CNAB is looking to extend this advantage by also making its Vblock infrastructure available to third parties as part of a securely partitioned hosted-service offer.

"Staff productivity improved from the moment the Cisco solution went live," concludes Darla. "Application response times have accelerated dramatically, while the network now operates at the desired 99 percent availability."

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Vasile Darla
CIO, National Company
Bucharest Airports

Products and Services

Data Center

- Cisco UCS B-Series Blade Servers
- Cisco Nexus 7000 Series Switches

Switching

- Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Switches
- Cisco Catalyst 4500 Series Switches
- Cisco Catalyst 3750 Series Switches
- Cisco Catalyst 2960 Series Switches

Security

- Cisco ASA 5500-X Series Firewalls
- Cisco Web and Email Security appliances

Wireless

- Cisco Aironet 3500 Series access points
- Cisco Aironet 1140 Series access points
- Cisco 5500 Series Wireless Controllers

Collaboration

- Cisco Jabber solution
- Cisco Unified IP Phones

For More Information

To learn more about the Cisco solutions featured in this case study, visit the following webpages:

Customer stories:
www.cisco.com/go/customerstories

Collaboration:
www.cisco.com/go/collaboration

Data center:
www.cisco.com/go/datacenter

Security:
www.cisco.com/go/security

Networking:
www.cisco.com/go/networking