Wood Group
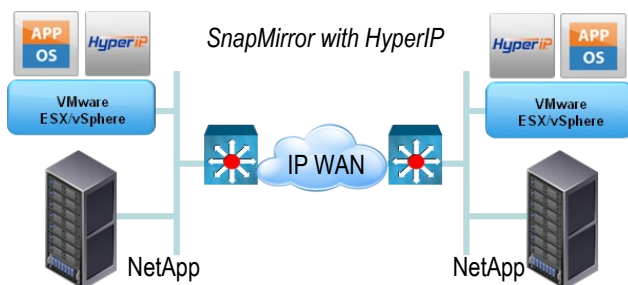
Software WAN Optimizer for NetApp Replication

Wood Group is an enterprise-class international energy services company with $5.0 billion in sales, employing more than 28,000 people worldwide and operating in 50 countries. Wood Group has three main businesses, Engineering and Production facilities, Well Support and Gas Turbine Services, providing a range of engineering, production support, maintenance management and industrial gas turbine overhaul and repair services to the oil & gas, and power generation industries worldwide.

Wood Group contacted NetEx because they were having problems with their NetApp SnapMirror replication traffic between data centers located in the United Kingdom and the United States. Synchronizing the SnapMirror volumes over the network proved difficult due to excessive latency of the wide area network, intermittent packet loss and the fact the replication traffic was shared with interactive desktop applications, including Citrix, HTTP, SSH and others.

Wood Group considered many options to improve their replication performance. They used Cisco WAAS internally for distributed file systems support between branch offices but did not see a fit with the NetApp SnapMirror application due to its complexity of installation and ongoing support. They also used Riverbed for desktop applications but decided against it for similar reasons.

Wood Group liked the software only approach of HyperIP. To test, they downloaded the HyperIP for VMware software from NetEx to a central location in Aberdeen, Scotland. They used VMware VMotion to move a second HyperIP image to a remote VMware ESX server in Houston, Texas. Within a few hours, HyperIP was installed and was moving production traffic allowing the NetApp volumes to be synchronized for the first time. The accelerated testing schedule would not have been possible with hardware based WAN optimizers, especially when considering lead times, shipments abroad and delays in customs. These issues just don't exist with a software only implementation, because of the significant ease of deployment.

SnapMirror with HyperIP

HyperIP for VMware Features

- Software only WAN Optimization solution.
- Provides storage Synchronization and Recovery on Demand features.
- Provides 'Time of Day' rate controls for bandwidth management & QoS.
- Block level based adaptive compression.
- Supports multi-point network topologies and flexible network configurations.
- Supports bandwidth of 1.5 Mb/s - Gigabit speeds in the same VMware instance.
- Easily downloaded for trials and field testing.
- Perfect for cloud storage infrastructures.

HyperIP for VMware Customer Benefits

- Ease of deployment for software only solutions.
- Works with VMware ESX infrastructure.
- Helps meet replication windows.
- Rate controls provides bandwidth management for interactive and replication traffic.
- Mitigates performance degradation due to latency and network errors.
- Scales as customers add new applications and locations.
- Does not require hardware upgrades or service personnel to support difficult to reach locations, such as oil rigs & ocean platforms.