



HPE powers the Ministry of Petroleum's data center network

End-to-end data center solutions with complete network integration

Objective

Build and implement a data center that is managed by one vendor

Approach

Hewlett Packard Enterprise acted as a one-stop shop in creating the entire data center architecture

Ground level consultative expertise was provided to guide the customer

IT matters

- Design and implement a standardized data center
- Deploy an advanced management and monitoring system—IMC
- Build resiliency in the data center network—IRF

Business matters

- Significant savings in CAPEX and OPEX with competitive pricing, simplified management, and HPE Limited Lifetime Warranty
- No disruption to business post split from Aramco
- Scalable and flexible to respond to business needs



Executive summary

When the Ministry of Petroleum, Saudi Arabia separated as a different entity from Saudi Aramco Oil Company, it was looking to build and manage a complete data center. One of its key priorities was to ensure that a single vendor would fabricate the entire data center from servers, storage, networks, as well as manage the data center. HPE fitted the role like a glove, with its capabilities in designing end-to-end data center architecture and a comprehensive network management platform, Intelligent Management Center (IMC). The result of this partnership was a network that was simplified, automated, agile, and cost effective. HPE solutions converged data center, campus, and branch networks across physical and virtual networks and wired and wireless platforms.

Single-vendor management

The Ministry of Petroleum was looking for a technology partner that would see it through one of its most challenging periods. HPE built a standardized network that was managed from a single-pane-of-glass network management platform—IMC. With IMC, the Ministry of Petroleum saw the tremendous value in how it could transform data center management—with its ability to integrate seamlessly and offer end-to-end management of network access control, network orchestration, service, and application monitoring. This resulted in the Ministry of Petroleum's decision to award the contract to HPE. "Our network is managed with just two consoles—OneView to manage servers and storage and IMC for everything else including switches, wireless, BYOD, and routers", says Hammami.

“We chose HPE and got more than what we asked for. We wanted to standardize our infrastructure and go with a single vendor to build our data center and reduce management complexity”.

– Wahid S. Hammami, CIO,
Ministry of Petroleum and
Mineral Resources

Customer at a glance

HPE hardware

- HPE FlexFabric 12500 Series Switches
- HPE FlexFabric 5900 Series Switches
- HPE FlexNetwork 4000 Series Multi- Services Routers
- HPE FlexNetwork 5500 Series Switches
- Blade 7000

Software

- 3PAR 7400 full suite
- HPE Intelligent Management Center (IMC)

HPE services

- HPE Technology Consulting Services

Deploying end-to-end solutions

The Ministry of Petroleum issued an extensive RFP with its requirement of a data center and campus network that could support its needs. Over a period of six months, HPE showcased trials through multiple technical workshops, presentations, and simulated scenarios. This addressed challenges that the Ministry of Petroleum could face from systems, storage, networks, and servers. HPE invested in understanding what the Ministry of Petroleum’s requirements were and provided support from HPE Technology Consulting Services to help consult, design, and implement the data center with the right solutions. The positive outcome of the testing helped the Ministry of Petroleum see how HPE could deliver consistent policy enforcement for security and reliability with an open standards-based solution that was agile and simplified.

“HPE Technology Consulting Services provided fantastic design and implementation services and their project management team delivered on time. The whole experience was great.”

The HPE solution worked as a business enabler by unifying communications and providing a quality experience so users could access tools and applications to stay productive from anyplace. Another factor that worked in favor of HPE was HPE Limited Lifetime Warranty, which enables businesses to lower their operating costs. The comprehensive nature of HPE solutions gave the Ministry of Petroleum the confidence to award the contract to HPE over competition.

“We chose HPE because they were the only ones who offered us everything we needed. We did not have a lot of technical manpower and wanted a centralized solution. We preferred one large global vendor for our infrastructure”, says Hammami.

HPE benefits

One of the priorities of the Ministry of Petroleum was to create a multitenant environment and manage costs as efficiently as possible. With HPE Multitenant Device Context (MDC) software, a single physical switch was partitioned to create four virtual logical switches. This resulted in lower hardware costs and better utilization of resources.

IMC provided the Ministry of Petroleum with a central vantage point of the entire network, proving how simplified it was to manage all the devices, while helping the Ministry of Petroleum stick to a lean technical team.

The impact of HPE Intelligent Resilient Framework (IRF) technology simplified network configuration and operation. It enabled many physical switches to act as a single logical switch and deliver high performance and redundancy in one solution.

HPE provided the Ministry of Petroleum with a data center that is armed to take on dynamic growth and an open-standard network that is simple, scalable, and automated for virtualized computing.

“We were comfortable investing in the HPE solution because of the peace of mind that comes with it being future proof. We are planning to deploy SDN for our new disaster recovery site next year. We will deploy Microsoft® Lync® and will be using the HPE SDN Network Optimizer application to ensure the best experience for our users. We will also implement the HPE SDN Network Protector application to enhance the security of our network”, says Hammami.

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