

## WAN APPLICATION PERFORMANCE OPTIMISATION

### The smart key to Vandemoortele's WAN redesign

Vandemoortele's evolving application landscape has required it to find solutions to optimise its WAN application performance. Application Performance Optimisation (APO) products were introduced in 2006, to solve challenges related to centralisation and traffic. When a second wave of centralisation in 2009 further changed the application flow Vandemoortele chose to implement Ipanema, thanks to its dynamic traffic routing, session-based QoS and reporting. Koen Tacq insists on the importance of looking beyond technology and bandwidth, to find the smartest solution to best serve internal clients.



Koen Tacq, Infrastructure Services Manager,  
Vandemoortele

## CHALLENGES

### Evolving application landscape raises new challenges

In 2006, changes to network usage were causing Vandemoortele significant concern. A new corporate policy required all 1500 company computers to log directly onto the company's intranet homepage, triggering a network demand surge each morning. What's more, many applications had been moved to a centrally-managed SAP and the company was dependent on real-time SAP data. "Some factories bake up to 24000 loaves of bread each hour," says Koen. "Imagine what a 30 minute SAP outage does to our production!"

Vandemoortele's solution was redundancy: they chose to work with two network providers. "We could be pretty sure that both networks wouldn't go down at the same time," explains Koen. "Even today, now that we have T-Systems as main contractor and single-point-of contact for our network, this remains our policy."

But Vandemoortele's network challenges didn't end there. New demands for applications, bandwidth requirements and the introduction of the intranet all changed the company's application landscape. Additional bandwidth was not the answer: the company needed to optimise its application performance through a WAN connection.

This case-study has been discussed at the BELTUG X-change of 29.10.2009

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Koen Tacq, Infrastructure Services Manager, Vandemoortele, presented this case at the BELTUG X-change on October 29, 2009

The Vandemoortele Group is the European market leader in frozen bakery products and margarines & fats, and focuses on the B2B sector. Active in more than 50 locations in Europe, it has 38 production facilities spread out over 12 European countries, and 4,900 employees.

Its divisional headquarters in Izegem, Belgium house its two data centres, which together form the hub of its centralised international IT environment. The group expects revenues of over €1100 million in 2009.

## SOLUTIONS

### Finding the smartest solution to meet the challenge

Optimisation took place over several years. “First, we implemented Riverbed, for application acceleration,” Koen explains. “It solved the morning surge by caching the intranet homepage locally. Overall, we reduced bandwidth usage by 80%.”

But a second wave of centralisation and consolidation changed the application flow. “To optimise our footprint and control costs, we moved all our servers to a single data server,” Koen says. “This had a big impact on international network traffic.”

Vandemoortele has now implemented Ipanema, which allows dynamic traffic routing and session-based QoS. But even more importantly, Ipanema is ‘smart’. “We ‘tell’ Ipanema our performance levels, and it ‘translates’ them to technology. Then it reports any failures, so I can see the real problem,” explains Koen.

## LESSONS LEARNT

### Focus on service and clients, not technology

For Koen, WAN optimisation has reached a second level of maturity. “At the first level, you focus on the best technology: for optimisation, for caching, etc,” he comments. “At the second level, you focus on service performance, to find the most complete solution, to best serve your customers. You need to implement the smartest solution.”

Koen has two recommendations for companies looking into WAN optimisation:

“First, concentrate on service, applications and your clients –not technology.

And secondly, very carefully examine all your options, because each will have its own pros and cons.”