



Boise Cascade

Headquartered in Boise Idaho, Boise Cascade is a major producer and distributor of pulp and paper, one of the world's premiere business-to-business distributors of office products, and a major manufacturer and distributor of building products.

Established in 1957 by the merger of two small Northwestern lumber companies—Boise Payette Lumber Company of Boise, Idaho, and Cascade Lumber Company of Yakima, Washington—Boise Cascade owns and manages more than 2 million acres of timberland to support their manufacturing operations.

Boise Cascade delivers wood and paper products while working to protect the environment from which these products come. The company's wildlife and fish biologists work closely with foresters to ensure that their over 2 million acres of timberland in the U.S. are effectively managed to provide and enhance wildlife habitat. Employees also work to protect the air and water quality near their wood and paper manufacturing operations, and to find ways to reduce, reuse and recycle resources as efficiently as possible.

The Challenge

The company was running a hybrid of network topologies including Token Ring, Ethernet, FDDI and Gigabit Ethernet and sought a networking vendor who would provide a more stable infrastructure by removing as many unnecessary protocols as possible. "One of the major reasons we partnered with Enterasys," says Senior Staff Consultant Greg Catalano, "was their ability to provide seamless integration of topologies into a single backbone."

Boise Cascade wanted a distributed, IP-based enterprise network to encompass their 92 locations throughout the United States and run Frame Relay to remote locations. In addition, the network would support many distributed client/server applications to consolidate operations and processes—from human resources to finance—to make the business run more efficiently, unify departments and systems, improve cost-savings and maximize the company's return on investment.

Boise Cascade chose Enterasys based on price/performance, sales and support, and for the leadership that the company demonstrated in developing a cohesive, high-performance networking solution to meet Boise Cascade's present and future business needs.

The Solution

In the campus backbone, Boise Cascade implemented three SmartSwitch 9000 chassis. With its integrated packet- and cell-switching backplane, Enterasys' SmartSwitch 9000 serves as the focal point for Boise Cascade's corporate network by seamlessly integrating the company's existing technologies and providing a smooth migration path to the high-speed technologies they rely on more and more. Throughout the network Boise Cascade also installed Enterasys' SmartSwitch 2200 for the Ethernet segments.

Several SmartSwitch 6000s support the company's regional timber mills and building materials warehouses. The 6000 accommodates a wide range of port densities and technologies to maximize Boise Cascade's departmental networking investment. In addition, the company's paper mills have implemented the SmartSwitch 6000 in the data center, as well as the SmartSwitch 2200 to provide high-density switching throughout the mill campus.

"Enterasys helped us develop an information architecture that is stable and robust," says Catalano. "They worked with us to establish network standards where appropriate, and helped us determine the value of information integration among businesses."

Boise Cascade has been very satisfied with their partnership with Enterasys. Catalano comments, "Enterasys has been an exceptional business partner. Their products have provided the foundation for a stable network environment to run our critical business applications. The engineering and service and support groups have helped us resolve our network problems and needs. They have helped us to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of our information environment."

Boise Cascade plans to eventually integrate other applications into their network, including voice and video over IP. Using SPECTRUM will give them an even more granular view of the network, ensuring that the integration is a success. “We look to Enterasys to provide us with the technology solutions that will carry our business well into the 21st century.”

Contact Us

For more information, call Enterasys Networks toll free at [1-877-801-7082](tel:1-877-801-7082), or +1-978-684-1000 and visit us on the Web at enterasys.com