



EQUINIX CUSTOMER CASE STUDY

CDM SMITH



Leading engineering and construction firm accelerates its data processing by 20x and speeds the delivery of innovative infrastructure solutions to its worldwide customers by deploying on Platform Equinix®.

Business results

- Delivers more innovative client solutions in less time
- 20 times faster optioneering and construction simulation model processing
- 38% reduction in latency interconnecting to the cloud
- 250% more bandwidth per employee at the same operating cost
- 25% lower annual total cost of ownership
- Receives accolades for technical innovation and stewardship: Presented with the 2016 MIT Sloan CIO Leadership Award

Executive overview

Seeking to gain a competitive advantage, engineering and construction leader CDM Smith set out to transform its IT infrastructure to support seamless and integrated global collaboration involving new technologies and approaches (cloud, IoT and mixed reality). Critical to this strategy was moving to a hybrid cloud model and re-architecting its IT for a digital edge by leveraging industry best practices of an Interconnection Oriented Architecture® (IOA®). By building its digital edge alongside the largest industry ecosystems on Platform Equinix to reach everywhere, interconnect everyone and integrate everything, CDM Smith was able to bring applications and services closer to users, optimize multicloud connectivity and boost performance. These essential shifts helped the firm create a more flexible, scalable and cost-effective interconnected IT architecture that delivered significant business benefits.

Customer overview

CDM Smith is a leading engineering and construction firm that provides lasting and integrated solutions in water, environment, transportation, energy and facilities to public and private clients worldwide. Based in Boston, MA, CDM Smith is privately owned with approximately 5,000 employees worldwide. The firm works in partnership with its global clients to solve complex environmental and infrastructure challenges.

Business opportunity

CDM Smith's leaders wanted to enable the company and its customers to experience design and construction in a realistic and accurate way. It recognized that by rendering its customers' design models faster, the firm could consider additional variables and ultimately deliver better solutions. However, in order to get there, it needed a high-performance, scalable architecture to drive faster data access and processing. In addition, it needed to analyze and return data faster by providing customers with immediate insights to make the right decisions more quickly and efficiently.

With its existing network consisting of a patchwork of carriers connected primarily over the public internet, CDM Smith's network service was inconsistent with poor user experience—especially for employees in remote offices. It was becoming increasingly difficult to achieve the high level of collaboration required for business success. Other pain points included the lack of enablement for business-critical applications (VOIP and Microsoft Office 365), the inability to rapidly embrace new techniques (e.g., drones, sensors, submersibles, 3D virtual and augmented reality/holographic simulations, etc.) and the considerable resources required to maintain the existing network configuration. It was clear that CDM Smith needed a more interconnected IT architecture to support its business goals.



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WHERE OPPORTUNITY CONNECTS

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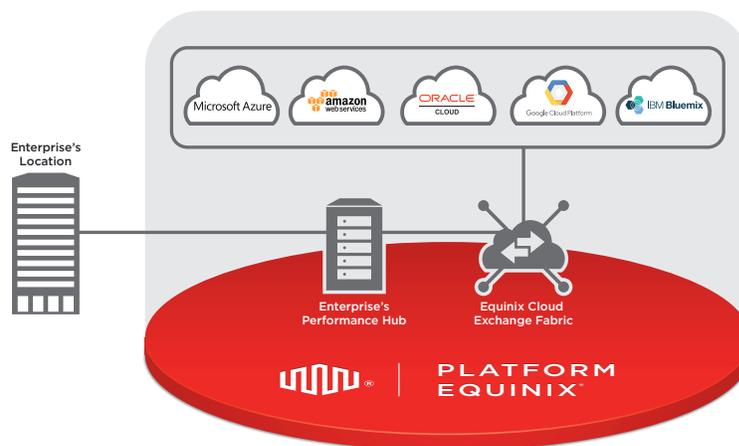
“High-performance global interconnection is key to facilitating the type of collaboration that enables us to deliver new innovative outcomes to our customers. Equinix is providing us with a complete interconnection architecture that’s helping us transform how infrastructure projects are designed, built and operated.”

David Neitz, CIO, CDM Smith

Solution

To deliver a flexible, high-performing, end-to-end interconnection solution for CDM Smith, Equinix partnered with CFN Services, a managed services provider known for deploying and managing high-performance networks—including private cloud solutions. Together, the companies helped CDM Smith transform its global corporate network by building a robust digital edge based on interconnected IT architecture on Platform Equinix.

Today, Equinix Performance Hub™, an enterprise network extension node, delivers any-to-any, high-performance interconnection between CDM Smith’s 160 global offices. Equinix Cloud Exchange Fabric™ (ECX Fabric™) directly, securely and dynamically connects distributed infrastructure and digital ecosystems globally on Platform Equinix via software-defined interconnection. CFN Services provides the firm’s private internet protocol (IP) backbone, as well as configuration and management of the entire Performance Hub deployment.



Value realized

With the new agile, interconnected architecture, CDM Smith easily transitioned to a hybrid cloud environment with ready-access to top cloud platforms such as Microsoft Azure. The firm’s leaders now know they can rely on an interconnection solution that will scale operationally, technically and geographically as the business grows. This includes guaranteed bandwidth and service level agreements for all offices—right down to the “last mile.”

Key take-aways

Transforming its global network by innovating at the digital edge enabled CDM Smith to collaborate more effectively with its employees, partners and customers to deliver more innovative solutions—based on newer technologies—to its clients faster. By leveraging an IOA strategy, the firm gained a high-performance, cost-effective architecture that empowers it to quickly and dynamically respond to change.

About Customer

CDM Smith provides lasting and integrated solutions in water, environment, transportation, energy and facilities to public and private clients worldwide. As a full-service engineering and construction firm, it delivers exceptional client service, quality results and enduring value across the entire project life cycle.

Learn more at CDMSmith.com

About Equinix

Equinix, Inc. (Nasdaq: EQIX) connects the world’s leading businesses to their customers, employees and partners inside the most-interconnected data centers. In 52 markets across five continents, Equinix is where companies come together to realize new opportunities and accelerate their business, IT and cloud strategies.

Learn more at Equinix.com

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About CFN Services

A leading provider of high-performance network and application delivery solutions for mission-critical and distributed computing environments, CFN has built its reputation by helping enterprises improve performance and migrate to scalable, high-performance solutions that drive business value and enable innovation.

Learn more at cfnservices.com