

Camelot's Network Consolidation is a sure winner

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Euan Webster, Network Systems Architect, Camelot Group plc.

» Camelot Group plc

Camelot Group plc operates the UK's National Lottery, the most cost-efficient lottery in Europe. With just over 900 staff, Camelot's primary business objective is to maximise returns to the Lottery's Good Causes in the most efficient and socially responsible way. Camelot created and manages the National Lottery date network, designs new games, markets lottery products and sells them through more than 26,000 retail terminals, national-lottery.co.uk, Sky Active and Play by Text.

Its games maintain average sales of around £95m per week, and since the National Lottery began, Camelot has created over 1,900 millionaires. Each week Camelot generates over £25 million for Good Causes. To date, over £18.6 billion has been raised for Good Causes by The National Lottery, and more than 240,000 individual awards have been made across the UK, funding the biggest programme of civic and social regeneration since the 19th Century.

» The Challenge

The increasing popularity of the lottery, combined with a range of new technologies, has led to a large number of new channels of play, including www.national-lottery.co.uk, Sky Active on digital TV and Play by Text on mobile phones. The resulting amount and variety of data flowing into Camelot requires a huge processing resource. To tackle this, Camelot is already implementing a site-wide project to upgrade its networks to gigabit capability and provide enhanced security.

"The diversity of our networks and our drive for the very best firewall protection was creating a heavy technical and management load," comments Euan Webster, Network Systems Architect with Camelot. *"Once the upgrade began we were looking at a significant increase in the number of network interfaces required – and a corresponding increase in the number of appliances connected to them."* Such a configuration would quickly lead to increased complexity, a greater maintenance and management load on staff and an unacceptable decline in network manageability – quite apart from the cost of the additional appliances.

In anticipation of Camelot's upgrade, the team from Nebulas Security had already mentioned the possible benefits of consolidating Camelot's security equipment to reduce complexity and increase manageability – whilst also controlling costs. Returning to that discussion, Webster began to look in more detail at Crossbeam Systems' range of purpose-built high-performance network security hardware.



» Customer needs met

- » Major hardware consolidation and reduction of equipment
- » Drastically reduced network complexity
- » Improved network and system manageability
- » More robust security and increased firewall capability
- » Smoother network traffic flow and consequently increased system availability and processing performance

» Deployed Solutions

- » 2 x Crossbeam Systems' Crossbeam X-80 Chassis
- » 8 x Crossbeam Systems' Network Processing Modules
- » 8 x Crossbeam Systems' Application Processing Modules



» The Solution

The Nebulas Security team has been integral to many of Camelot's IT projects, making it easy for Webster to explain the complex pressures and priorities of the network upgrade project. Shortly afterwards, he was invited to a demonstration of the Crossbeam X-Series security switch running on another site. The X-Series delivers flexible, high scaling network security in perimeter, core and data centre architectures and offers consolidation of security equipment and a faster response to the demands of large organisations. The result is massive appliance consolidation, eliminating between 10 and 12 separate devices per Crossbeam security switch, and the ability to build robust system defences for a relatively low cost. A blade-based chassis, the X-80 holds any combination of Network Processing Modules (NPMs) and Application Processing Modules (APMs). The NPMs support user-configurable load-balancing for vastly improved network traffic flow; while the APMs process flows received from the NPM using best-in-class security engines.

Based on this demonstration and careful consideration of Camelot's requirements, Nebulas Security proposed a configuration comprising two Crossbeam X-80 chassis, each containing four blade-based NPMs and four APMs. Over the following month the Nebulas Security team specified the equipment, tested the proposed configuration and supported the Camelot team in preparing the existing system for the changeover. Then, in a single period of overnight downtime lasting just three hours, the X-80s were integrated into the new network infrastructure at Camelot's main data centre at Watford, Hertfordshire.

» The Future

This single implementation resulted in an immediate reduction in network complexity and reduced the management load for the data centre staff. *"The X-80s enabled us to consolidate multiple items of hardware, and provided far more network expansion ports to accommodate our future requirements - without increasing complexity,"* says Euan Webster. *"The load-balancing capability means we can cope with fluctuating network traffic with ease, in a way which optimises the value of the hardware we already have."*

Future plans for Camelot include extending the network upgrade to its other data centre in Slough, and continuous reviews of all its critical security procedures and technologies. *"We expect to maintain a close relationship with Nebulas Security throughout our future IT projects,"* concluded Euan Webster. *"The Nebulas Security team has been exceptionally helpful and professional throughout this project, and we've undoubtedly benefited from its expertise and proactive approach - which ensures we know about new technologies before we've even asked."*

» Nebulas Security

- » Nebulas Security is a leading provider of advanced IT security, mobility and compliance solutions.
- » Since its formation in 2001, the company has developed partnerships with customers to build their IT security infrastructures and protect their sensitive data. This is supported by the company's extensive implementation experience, close relationships with key security technology vendors and detailed product knowledge.
- » Nebulas Security's customers include many blue chip and FTSE 250 organisations operating in financial, media, retail, legal and healthcare sectors
- » Based in London, Nebulas Security is a division of the Nebulas Solutions Group, the security, acceleration and virtualisation specialist.
- » The Group's combined expertise helps organisations maximise the efficiency and security of their infrastructure, as well as reducing operating costs.
- » For further information, visit www.nebulassolutions.com

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