



South China Financial Holdings selects H3C for Next Generation Network Upgrade

“H3C’s IRF2 virtualization solution has provided us with what we were looking for – high reliability, high availability, high performance and fast failover within milliseconds. In addition, the iMC total unified management platform promised easy management for the whole network and a reduction in the administration burden, all of which added up to increased ROI.” said Gavan Chiu, Director, Information Technology Department of South China Financial Holdings.

South China Securities Limited (SCS) is a Hong Kong registered securities dealer and investment adviser. A wholly owned subsidiary of publicly listed South China Financial Holdings (SCFH), South China Securities Limited provides a wide range of financial services, offering investors One Stop Shop investment solutions through its SCtrade.com – one of Hong Kong’s most comprehensive financial online securities trading platform.

A leading, fast growing Hong Kong-based e-trading securities company, a reliable network is mission critical. It relies on a 24x7 non-stop e-trading business platform to serve its customers. Its

key requirements include performance, stability and a high level of redundancy.

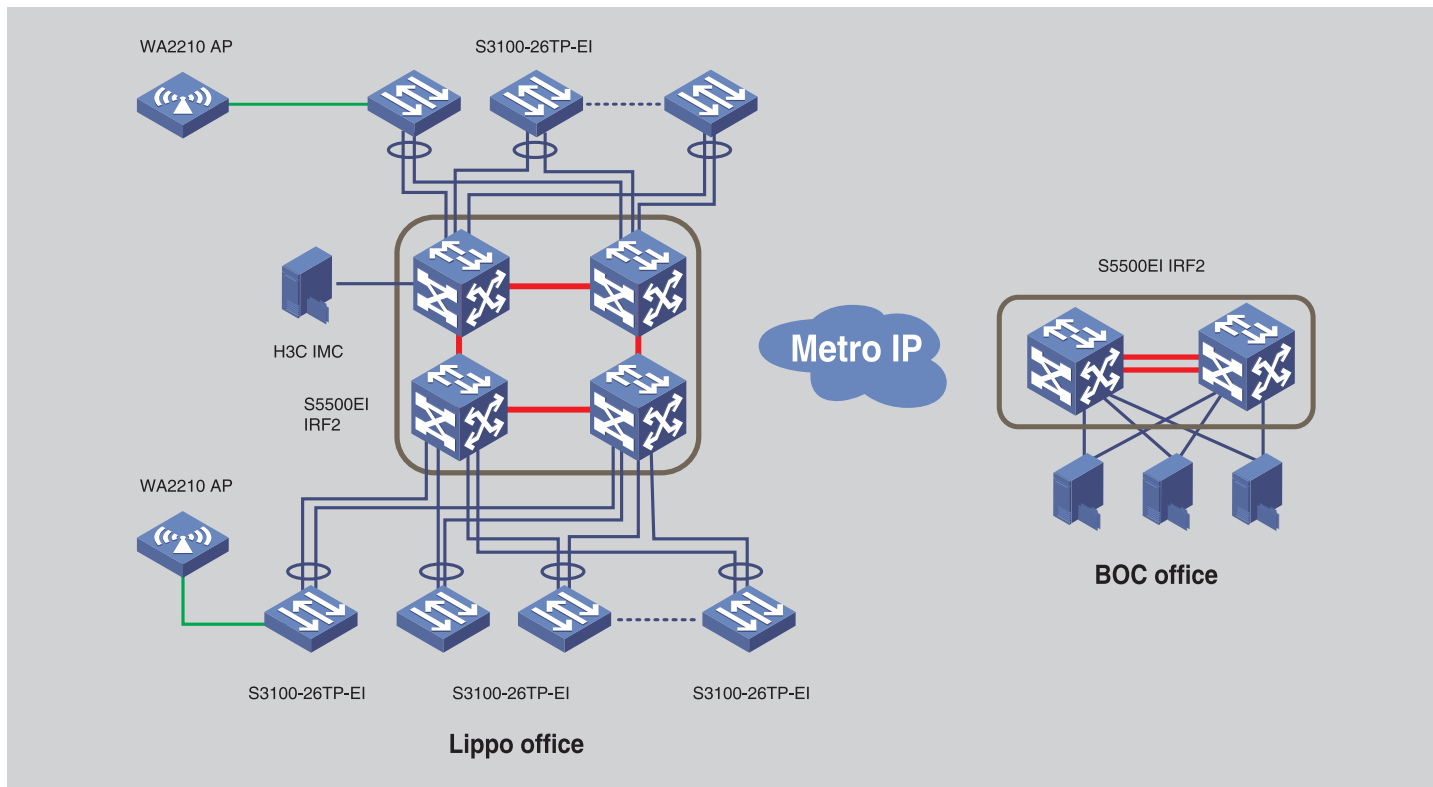
As its business grew, the organization began planning an expansion of its Lippo Centre office. At the same time, it started looking for a reliable networking vendor to help it grow its network, with also enhancements to performance and central management capability in the process.

The Solution

To address SCFH’ network expansion objectives, H3C proposed implementing four H3C S5500EI devices to act as core switches. The S5500EI is famous for its abundant L2 features, such as ACL, QoS and multiple security control methods. In addition, the S5500EI is a full L3 and IPv6 switch, which means that it can be treated as genuine network gateway.

Abundant L3 dynamic routing protocols, such as OSPF, BGP, and ISIS are also supported, as is BFD, which enables the whole network to be recovered in milliseconds in the event of a problem. Using H3Cs hallmark virtualization technology – IRF2 (Intelligent Resilient Framework version 2) – the four core switches effectively become a single unit, boosting performance by up to four times and simplifying configuration tremendously.

On line e-trading systems are very sensitive to network failover or downtime. Indeed, anything that goes wrong in the network can easily turn into a disaster – not only for internal users, but also business customers. The new H3C solution that SCFH is implementing can take such problems in its stride. All access switches are connected to the S5500EIs solely via LACP technology – there is no STP at all – which offers SCFH the highest levels of availability-failover, down to milliseconds.



In the central data centre, another two H3C S5500EIs are stacked via IRF2 to provide access service for nearly forty servers with teaming functions to guarantee high performance. For office access, SCFH now has a total of 25 S3100-EI switches featuring strong L2 security, which is essential for financial customers. These include ARP detection, IP source guard and 802.1x authentications.

The S3100-EI is fanless design, which means less noise and lower power consumption. In fact, H3C's Green IT products are certified by the third-party organization, Miercom, which has found they typically consume up to 55% less power than the industry average.

SCFH has created a network environment for mobile users at its Lippo Centre office, using H3C WA2210 wireless FAT access points. They are capable of speeds of up to 54Mbps and support both 802.11a or 802.11b/g.

While the WA2210 normally supports one command mode, a centralized wireless controller can be added as user numbers grow, protecting SCFH' investment.

The entire network can be managed from a single management console thanks to H3C's Intelligent Management Centre. Known as iMC, it represents one of the most comprehensive and intelligent management platforms and can easily handle all the equipment on the network, including H3C switching systems, the H3C wireless system as well as third party products.

Why H3C?

In the first place, H3C offered a full portfolio of switching products that matched SCFH' network growth requirements. Another reason was H3C's unique IRF2 virtualization technology, which covers box switches and chassis based switches, offering high-reliability, high-availability, high-performance, and fast failover within milliseconds.

In addition, the iMC total unified management platform promised

easy management for the whole network and a reduction in the administration burden, all of which added up to increased ROI. Professional IT pre-sale and post-sale services also played a role, as did H3C's professional pre-sale and post-sale services and the Green IT Technology concept, which runs through the entire product line.

The Benefits

H3C's Intelligent Resilient Framework (IRF2) technology provides SCFH with rapid redundancy – down to milliseconds – and simplifies the traditional enterprise and data center infrastructure. This enables SCFH to deliver a stable e-trading platform and address future business challenges easily.

The new network is managed by a unified management platform that includes the wired and wireless services. H3C's all-in-one Intelligent Management Center (iMC) solution enables network status monitoring, event logging, network traffic statistics, network alarm monitoring and distributed web-based IT network management.

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