



NEWS RELEASE

Ameritas Increases Business Agility and IT Security with Cisco Application Centric Infrastructure

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Single-pane-of-glass management makes network operations easier and more scalable
SAN JOSE, Calif., Jan. 24, 2018 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Ameritas, a large insurance company headquartered in Lincoln, Nebraska, has selected Cisco® computing, networking and security technology as the foundation for upgrading its data centers. The goal of the infrastructure upgrade was to improve agility and operational efficiency while increasing IT security.

Supporting close to 1000 applications, the new technology infrastructure has reduced capex by 30 to 40 percent in switching devices alone and freed up 25 to 30 percent of the network operations team's time, allowing them to focus on more strategic initiatives.

Security balanced with agility

Security and agility are often at odds in the data center, and yet both are paramount for modern enterprises—especially in the highly competitive insurance and financial services industry. Striving for technology-driven innovation and differentiation, the Ameritas IT department wanted the new data centers to provide an agile supportive environment for application developers to help bring new products and services to market quickly.

“Cybersecurity has to be at the forefront of a company like ours,” said Matt Billmeier, a director in IT at Ameritas. “But it is also the source of perceived delays in completing new projects. In selecting our new infrastructure we looked to Cisco to provide both agility and the highest levels of security possible.”

At the heart of the new Ameritas data centers are Cisco Application Centric Infrastructure (Cisco ACI), Cisco Unified Computing System™ (Cisco UCS®), Cisco FirePOWER® Next Generation Intrusion Prevention System (NGIPS), and the Citrix NetScaler Application Delivery Controller.

“We found Cisco ACI to be the industry's most comprehensive and integrated solution, with support for physical, virtual, and cloud environments, single-pane-of-glass management and a common policy

framework that spans both our data centers,” said Billmeier. “Network operations immediately became easier and more scalable because we could configure once and then deploy across the entire network fabric.”

In addition, ACI’s integration with the Cisco FirePOWER NGIPS increases security by providing automated threat protection. Less human intervention and decision making means better protection and faster response times for Ameritas. ACI also improves security by facilitating microsegmentation at the application layer.

“With our legacy environment, segmentation took a lot of time and thought,” said Billmeier. “But with Cisco ACI, it’s built in. Nothing can connect to anything else without explicit instruction, so there’s no chance of confusion or miscommunication.”

Open Ecosystem

The open Cisco ACI framework has 65 ecosystem members who can take advantage of the open Application Programming Interface (API) to integrate their solutions, allowing IT organizations to leverage a rich set of third-party appliances and solutions with ACI.

Looking Ahead

“We’ll set the parameters and then let the network make decisions on its own. Cisco ACI tells the entire infrastructure how to behave and respond,” said Billmeier.

In the future, Billmeier and his team will be looking at Cisco Tetration Analytics™ as a solution to add more automation and additional intelligence through application monitoring and machine learning to make the network smarter and more adaptable.

Additional Resources

- Learn more about: [Cisco ACI overview](#)
- Read: [Cisco ACI Ameritas Case Study](#)
- Read: [Cisco ACI case studies](#)
- View: [Cisco ACI ecosystem partners](#)
- Learn more about: [Cisco data center technology](#)

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Press Relations

Lee Davis
Cisco
650-868-3036

leedavis@cisco.com

Analyst Relations

Aimee Schoaf

Cisco

602-778-2308

aschoaf@cisco.com

Investor Relations

Carol Villazon

Cisco

408-527-6538

carolv@cisco.com

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