



CASE STUDY

Citrix Access Information for **BUILDING & CONSTRUCTIONS**

“Application deployment on servers and their availability to users via Citrix MetaFrame enabled us to react instantly to requirements demanded by the management in order to restructure the group.”

ALEŠ VILÍMEK

IS & IT Director, Skanska CZ a.s.

Key Benefits

- IT department is able to instantly deliver any application to any device
- Reduction of workforce in system administration necessary
- Extension of hardware life cycle
- Increased level of data security
- IT system management and maintenance cost reduction

Applications Deployed Via Terminal

(A wide range of applications), including:

- Microsoft® Office 2000
- Microsoft® Project 2000
- Coda Financials, Oracle NET Client
- SAP BW, CRM
- AutoCAD and AutoDesk VoloView Express
- IXOS 3I
- GeoBaze
- ProfiDATA
- VirtuaControl for user interface administration
- AppSense Application Manager for system security

Skanska CZ a.s. Skanska Building On Solid Ground with Citrix Solution

Skanska Group is the largest construction group in the Czech Republic; it operates also in Slovakia where it ranks among the top construction companies. The company is active in all fields of structural engineering including ecological constructions, transport engineering, manufacture of construction materials and technical infrastructure of buildings, as well as facility development and management.

The group is divided into six divisions headed by Skanska CZ a.s. With 6,500 employees, CZK 24 billion revenue in 2002 and solid growth, Skanska CZ a.s. is perceived as an employer of choice in the whole region.

CHALLENGE: OPTIMIZATION OF COSTS AND SYSTEM UNIFICATION

The main impetus for launching cost-optimizing processes was a decision made by the management in 2001. It aimed to change the company's structure to better reflect the situation on the market. After the acquisition of the originally Czech company IPS a.s. by the Swedish construction giant Skanska, IPS and its subsidiaries were transformed into Skanska CZ a.s.

The newly formed group faced the challenge to consolidate and unify the IT organization throughout the company. Among the main tasks were: reduction of investments, prolongation of the innovation cycle, optimization of human resource utilization and consolidation of information sources dispersed all over single divisions and subsidiaries. Employees in remote offices had difficulties both in accessing up-to-date information from the central office and in communicating their data back to the headquarters.

Most importantly, the company needed to keep costs for IT restructuralization down. The IT management wished for rapid application deployment and centralized administration to save expenses. Also, the IT staff spent a lot of time traveling to remote offices to install software on user workstations. The new solution should make these time and money consuming trips unnecessary.

The challenge for Skanska CZ a.s. was to clean the house and consolidate system resources in order to enable business continuity and further growth.

IMPLEMENTING A CITRIX SOLUTION FOR BUSINESS CONTINUITY AND REMOTE OFFICE CONNECTIVITY

After the decision of Skanska CZ a.s. management to reduce further investments into the traditional client-server architecture, due to excessive expenses of administration, maintenance and hardware, several options of IT system consolidation were considered such as Tarantella, a solution based on Microsoft SMS server, platform unification, and a four-year cycle of hardware renewal. However, none of these options could satisfy the management due to the need for considerably more powerful workstations. Besides, they did not address the exigencies of data centralization and improved security. The final decision was made towards data centralization and solutions based on thin clients. „We are a construction company, so we don't need efficient workstations we can't make the best of. What matters is information and its availability anytime from anywhere – no matter if it's from the office or a construction site,” explains Aleš Vilímek, IS & IT Director at Skanska CZ a.s.

With the help of OrBit, Platinum Citrix Solution Advisor, Skanska CZ a.s. decided to install Citrix® MetaFrame® Presentation Server Enterprise Edition with Microsoft® Windows® 2000 Advanced Server Operating System. MetaFrame Presentation Server was integrated into Skanska's existing IT infrastructure, guaranteeing reliable access to all authorized resources of the Skanska information system for both in house and remote users.

IMPLEMENTATION WAS EXTRAORDINARILY FAST

The first server farm was deployed in the Skanska CZ a.s. headquarters at the end of 2002 – 13 MetaFrame Presentation Servers, two management servers and deployment

servers for 1,000 users, followed by server farms in three other locations around the country. The whole project was completely handed over to Skanska CZ a.s. and launched into standard operation in May 2003.

With the access infrastructure solution, Skanska CZ a.s. was able to transform its heterogeneous IT environment into a single structure, providing its database and information system to its employees. Now, 1,580 users in Skanska's eleven offices can communicate data easily and work together smoothly, with immediate and easy access to information and business analysis applications including SAP GUI (enterprise software), IXOS 31, ProfiDATA (content management software) and ASPIWIN with Firemní právník (legal practice management software for legal department). These business-critical applications are now installed and accessed on the central IT system, ensuring consistent and easy information access and sharing.

INCREASED SECURITY AND PRODUCTIVITY, EASY ADMINISTRATION AND REDUCTION OF TCO

The high standards of Citrix MetaFrame Presentation Server have considerably reduced security risks. “Locations with lower security are no longer equipped with unprotected computers containing sensitive enterprise data, but only with terminals where no data is stored. Data and information are safely transferred into the headquarters, where they are centrally administered and updated”, says Aleš Vilímek. “For instance, Internet Explorer Service Pack is now ready for use in more than 2,000 computerized locations within a few minutes.”

At the same time, with a more reliable network and better system performance, productivity was increased across the board, since more

Networking Environment

- Citrix® MetaFrame® Presentation Server Enterprise Edition running on 25 HP ProLiant DL580R02 Servers 4x procesor X1400-512k 4096 MB, iLO, 2x18.2 GB Hot Plug Wide Ultra3 10k, SMART Array 5302/128 MB Cache
- Microsoft® Windows® 2000 Servers
- Citrix® MetaFrame XP Presentation Server Enterprise Edition running on eight HP ProLiant ML530R02 cluster servers (X2400-512k 1GB and HP StorageWorks VirtualArray for file and mail services (Microsoft Exchange 2000)
- WAN
- GPRS

applications and resources were made available to more employees. With the Citrix solution, applications are installed and updated only once, on the server, and are then instantly available for users everywhere, according to their user specific access rights.

The Citrix solution has also brought other benefits to Skanska CZ a.s., including instant check-up and user maintenance. The I/S personnel can now provide remote users with support without leaving the help desk. Also, the lifecycle of hardware has been extended. “Even though switching to server-based computing technology was slightly slower than initially expected, the Citrix solution fulfilled all our expectations. We can rely on it in the process of building a single ERP solution for the whole Skanska Group,” concludes Vilímek.

About Citrix MetaFrame Access Suite: Extending the world's most widely deployed presentation server, the Citrix® MetaFrame® Access Suite is access infrastructure for the on-demand enterprise. The suite centralizes access to applications and information and enables IT staffs to deliver, manage, monitor and measure enterprise resources on demand. Citrix customers are able to run IT as a corporate computing utility, provisioning software as a service. This simplifies the complexity and reduces the costs of deploying and administering hundreds of heterogeneous applications and delivering them to workers on demand anywhere, anytime, to any device, over any connection.