A LEADING GLOBAL BANK
FINANCIAL SERVICES

aspera
an IBM® company

Improving Banker Productivity with Fast, Secure File Sharing

AT A GLANCE

Industry

Financial Services

Products

Aspera Enterprise Server
Aspera FASPStream
Aspera SDK
Console

Challenge

Enable over 10,000 banking professionals to share large collections of confidential and time sensitive files across global corporate banking teams within tight timelines.

Solution

The bank integrated Aspera FASPStream into their legacy asset management software enabling remote teams to securely upload, download, view, edit and share individual files and whole directories at high-speed.

Results

- Global download speeds improved over 500% enabling remote teams to collaborate in real time, boosting productivity and accelerating deal cycles.
- Easy to deploy, the bank was able to go from concept to launch in under 2 months while projecting to reduce CapEx in the process.

A global financial institution provides its 10,000+ banking professionals with a content management system to securely share sensitive documents and files for corporate banking services such as M&A transactions. The Windows based application is core to how the bank manages file sharing of highly sensitive financial and business documents.

The software allows bank employees to view, edit, download and share files with teams around the world. Files accessed through the desktop client are stored in datacenters across N. America, Europe and Asia. HTTP provides the transfer backbone for all data movement across the application, datacenter and local users.

CHALLENGE

Every day thousands of bankers log into this crucial application. Time sensitive and confidential files including terms sheets, financial statements, market reports, and contracts are shared with teams around the world. Individual files range in size from a few megabytes to over a gigabyte in size. Despite the relatively small size of files, teams struggled to access and download critical documents in a timely fashion.

The challenges were amplified for employees in remote locations moving data over high latency global networks. Often times teams were accessing files stored in datacenters thousands of miles away in another country. In one test, it took an employee nearly 20 minutes to download a single file roughly 100MB in size.

Considering teams are frequently downloading whole directories and iterating on files multiple times, these slowdowns can add days and weeks to time-sensitive business transactions. With thousands of new files being uploaded weekly, the bank knew they needed an alternative solution to HTTP-based transfers.

SOLUTION

The bank's application provides critical, custom-built security, tracking and auditing capabilities. Simply replacing with off-the-shelf software or cloud file sharing was not an option. The bank needed an embedded approach. Initially, they tried using WAN acceleration hardware appliances. Costly and hard to manage, these devices only produced a 5% improvement in transfer speeds, hardly noticeable to the end user.

Starting with a simple proof of concept, the bank tested Aspera high-speed transfer software. The improvements were staggering, reducing transfers from minutes and hours to seconds. In addition to performance, Aspera's flexible software based architecture and SDK's meant high-speed transfer could be easily integrated into the bank's existing application.

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BENEFITS

Improved banker productivity
Aspera FASPStream replaced the HTTP transfer backbone of the bank's legacy asset management software improving global collaboration with high-speed file editing, viewing and sharing from anywhere in the world.

Easy to launch
Robust APIs made it easy for IT to integrate and launch Aspera high-speed transfer without needing new hardware or installing local client software. By integrating Aspera into the legacy client application, the bank did not need to train employees on a new application.

Strong security
Aspera's enterprise-grade security features SSH authentication, encryption in transit and at rest, and data integrity verification for each transmitted block, protecting highly sensitive bank and customer data.

Cost reduction
With Aspera's distance agnostic high-speed data transfer capabilities, the bank is consolidating datacenters and reducing the need for costly and poor performing WAN acceleration devices, projecting to significantly reduce CapEx.

After a successful evaluation, the bank moved forward with a full deployment. Clusters of Aspera Enterprise Servers were placed in each of the datacenters around the world providing scalability, redundancy, and most importantly, high-speed file transfer.

Additionally, the bank chose Aspera's SDK and FASPstream APIs to integrate high-speed streaming into the client application. Rather than starting and completing a transfer by reading and writing a whole file from disk, Aspera FASPstream allows bankers to access and edit files instantly as the data arrives in a stream, significantly reducing load times. Aspera Console was deployed as well to provide a simple web UI to manage transfer logging, control and reporting.

RESULTS

Across all tests, Aspera blew away the competition and existing technology. Between international offices transfer speeds improved over 500%, delivering files in seconds compared to the nearly 20 minutes per file previously experienced. Aspera's revolutionary FASPstream software enables global bankers to access and edit files in real time without delay regardless of where the data is stored, improving productivity and accelerating time-sensitive corporate banking deals and activities. Because FASPStream integrates into the bank's existing content management platform, no retraining is required for the thousands of end users of the application.

Aspera's software-based deployment model was also a key deciding factor. Normally, it could take over a year to test and launch a new application. With Aspera, the bank went from discussion to pilot to deployment in under 2 months. The flexibility and ease of use enabled the bank to revolutionize application performance in record time.

With Aspera the bank expects to significantly reduce capital expenditures in the first year of the project. Aspera's distance agnostic high-speed data transfer capabilities enable the bank to consolidate storage where most cost effective and reduce the need for expensive, poor performing WAN acceleration hardware appliances.

Finally, Aspera's robust encryption in transit and at rest, full transfer reporting and control, and integration with the legacy application's existing security capabilities, ensures the bank's most sensitive data is fully protected.

About Aspera

Aspera, an IBM Company, is the creator of next-generation transport technologies that move the world's data at maximum speed regardless of file size, transfer distance and network conditions. Based on its patented, Emmy® award-winning FASP® protocol, Aspera software fully utilizes existing infrastructures to deliver the fastest, most predictable file-transfer experience. Aspera's core technology delivers unprecedented control over bandwidth, complete security and uncompromising reliability. Organizations across a variety of industries on six continents rely on Aspera software for the business-critical transport of their digital assets.

Learn more at www.asperasoft.com and follow us on Twitter @asperasoft for more information.