WAN SERIES SOLUTION BRIEF

SharePoint Optimization

WAN Series WAN Optimization Controllers: Accelerating and optimizing SharePoint through application blueprints

Optimizing Global SharePoint Deployments

One of the biggest challenges to global deployments of SharePoint is dealing with poor WAN performance. Essentially, plans for global adoption can be thwarted by slow page loads and file transfers and time wasted waiting for systems to respond. Many IT professionals would say that you can't do anything about latency that slows application performance over a WAN.

While this may be true, physical limits do not contribute significantly to poor application performance. In reality, the biggest challenge to centralization and data center consolidation is a combination of too much traffic, too many connections and not enough bandwidth. You can buy more bandwidth, but it can get expensive quickly and it won't necessarily improve application performance. When you factor in the usage of small WAN links in remote offices – and the fact that the more bandwidth you provide to end-users, the faster it is consumed – fighting for application performance using bandwidth can be a losing battle.

Thankfully, there are options available to address bandwidth and latency concerns around deploying SharePoint. Rather than deploying SharePoint in expensive silos and figuring out how to replicate content, configurations and security throughout globally distributed server farms, today IT professionals can take advantage of real solutions that assist with centralization, reduce hardware and operational costs and improve end-user productivity.

WAN Optimization

One such solution is WAN optimization, which utilizes a combination of de-duplication, compression, caching, SSL offload, traffic shaping, removal of unnecessary packets and protocol optimization to reduce round trips. By reducing the amount of data on the wire and streamlining the behavior of application traffic, WAN optimization allows businesses to centralize SharePoint without worrying about potential performance implications. You are in control. You decide what is important.

WAN optimization includes a number of techniques designed to optimize not only page renders but also everything that you transfer.

Configured in-line or in conjunction with a router, WAN optimization will typically be able to improve the performance of not just SharePoint traffic, but also other WAN traffic including Web servers, SQL, Oracle, NSF and CIFS or file server traffic. In most instances, WAN optimization can be configured out-of-line exclusively for SharePoint or can just as easily be configured to accelerate other traffic traversing the WAN as well.

Array Networks WAN Series WAN Optimization

For organizations looking specifically at optimizing global SharePoint deployments, Array's WAN Series WAN optimization controllers provide a compelling value proposition. The key lies in "application blueprints" which are tuned for specific applications – in this case SharePoint. The blueprint optimizes the transfer protocols used by SharePoint so that they operate more efficiently across the WAN and provide the end-user with a significantly accelerated experience.

Array's application blueprints address not only differencing and intelligent caching but also the rules per protocol that shape and optimize the SharePoint traffic itself. Many other performance solutions focus only on optimizing file transfers or HTTP; in contrast, WAN Series focuses on SharePoint-specific rules but also focuses on optimizing transfer and traffic rules as they relate to optimizing protocol chattiness, differencing, caching and reducing overall round trips required.

When you drill down on protocols and WAN traffic using WAN Series dashboards, you can see even more of what is happening on the wire. You can distinguish between things such as file server traffic and specific SharePoint traffic, and over time see trends on how applications are used and optimized with the Array WAN Series platform.

Global Deployment

From an administrator's standpoint, WAN Series provides a high degree of flexibility in global SharePoint deployments, including the ability to set policies for routing, configure ACLs for multiple communities of interest and select platform options best suited to particular applications, use cases and environments such as:

- WAN Series dedicated hardware appliances
- Virtual appliances for VMware ESXi, Hyper-V or KVM
- Software for Windows Server 2008R2
- Software client for Windows 7 laptops

As your needs grow, the infrastructure can grow with you and can easily be expanded simply by adding license keys to virtual appliances, or up to the capacity of dedicated appliances. In the beginning it may make sense to leverage Windows Server for smaller offices, but as the small branch office grows to become a larger regional office, you may find that a virtual appliance with a dedicated disk or a dedicated appliance better fits expanded scalability and performance requirements.

Whether supporting SharePoint in data center and cloud deployments, remote office deployments or mobile workforce deployments, WAN Series' Configuration Management System provides a sophisticated yet easy-to-use solution that assists with deployment configuration and monitoring of WAN Series appliances while providing you with rich analysis capabilities to help you maximize your IT resources.

WAN Series Benefits

- Decrease WAN bandwidth requirements
- Centralize SharePoint without performance implications
- Broad options in deployment: Dedicated, virtual or software
- Leverage application blueprints specific to SharePoint
- Reduce IT capital, network bandwidth and operations costs
- Reap performance gains for other traffic types in addition to SharePoint
- Control policies for routing, configure ACLs and select platform options from a central management point
- Easy expansion as needs change and grow
- Affordable options for small and remote offices

Remote Offices & Users

Another challenge in the WAN optimization space is the devices themselves. To perform differencing, you need two devices. This is typically accomplished by data center and remote location devices, but what if there isn't a remote office IT infrastructure? With WAN Series, IT administrators have a couple of options that provide flexibility for smaller branch offices that may not have a network closet or network equipment.

First, there is the WAN Series mobile client that supports road warriors who may not be at an office at all. Second, there is the vWAN virtual appliance or WAN Series software that can easily be installed on a server residing in the branch office. Third, the WAN1100 dedicated appliance is designed specifically for the needs of small and remote offices.

Rules can be added remotely by the IT administrator to route specific traffic through the WAN Series image. As your needs grow you can resize virtual appliances as needed, or scale dedicated appliances to their maximum capacity.

Summary

Ultimately, ROI for any solution comes down to discovering where the real value lies. Did you save on bandwidth? Is WAN optimization actually reducing the amount of data on the wire? These are valid questions. However, real value lies in understanding the needs of the end-user in order to determine where centralization may be implemented. You need to know what your users demand in terms of performance. Being able to get data off the wire and optimizing application performance will help, and may make the difference in preventing multiple deployments or supporting a consolidation strategy.

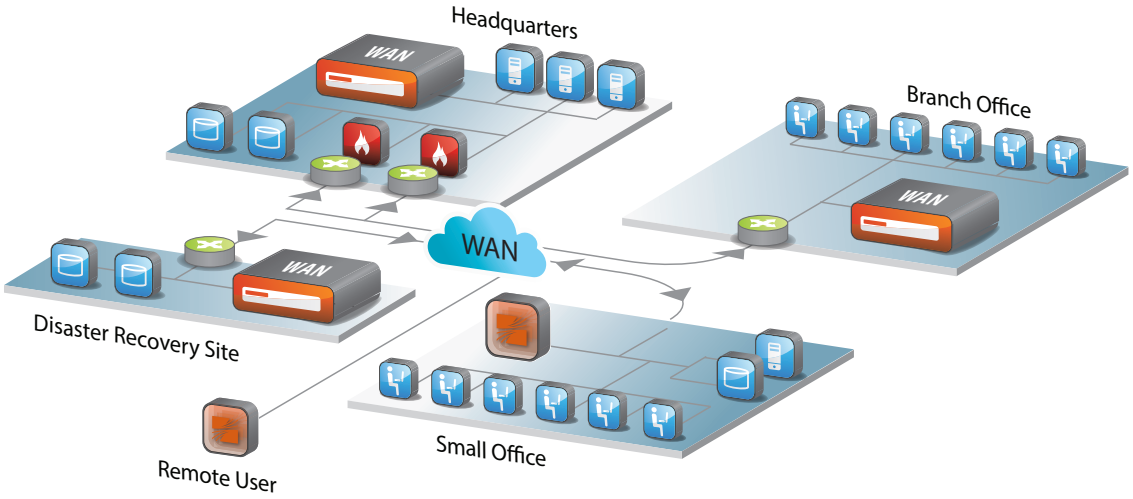

Figure 1: WAN Series WAN Optimization supporting Multiple Office and User Types

For more information about how Array Networks can help you accelerate and optimize SharePoint through application blueprints, visit us at arraynetworks.com or send us an email at sales-info@arraynetworks.com.

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