



EQUINIX

Case Study

Transportation Services

VR Group boosts cloud application performance and reduces costs

Equinix and Cisco virtual network backbone speed up hybrid multicloud access at a lower cost for a travel services provider.

Improve the performance and resiliency of hybrid multicloud interconnectivity

Finnish-based travel, logistics and maintenance service company, VR Group, created an agile digital infrastructure leveraging software-defined interconnection on Platform Equinix® to improve cloud application performance and reduce costs.

Challenge

VR Group wanted to replace its legacy corporate network, which had become increasingly complex and cumbersome, requiring manual operation and maintenance that drove up costs. The company needed to provide fast, reliable access to business operation applications on Microsoft Azure for its employees and customer-facing applications (travel reservation, logistics and maintenance systems) on AWS. Its Architecture team set out to improve the performance, scalability and resiliency of its hybrid multicloud interconnectivity and to better control escalating costs.

“No other vendor can provide the fast, software-defined accessibility that Equinix delivers to AWS and Microsoft Azure on a single platform. Equinix helped us lower our latency when accessing cloud apps and services by 100x, which greatly improved our user experience.”

Markus Niskanen: Head of Architecture, VR Group



About VR Group

VR Group is a versatile, environmentally friendly and responsible travel, logistics and maintenance service company, keeping Finnish society moving for almost 160 years. VR Group is wholly owned by the Finnish State. It operates mainly in Finland, but also has operations abroad, especially in Russia.

vrgroup.fi

About Equinix

Equinix is the world's digital infrastructure company™. Digital leaders harness our trusted platform to bring together and interconnect the foundational infrastructure that powers their success. We enable our customers to access all the right places, partners and possibilities they need to accelerate advantage. With Equinix, they can scale with agility, speed the launch of digital services, deliver world-class experiences and multiply their value.

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Solution: Build an optimized, agile and resilient digital infrastructure

VR Group designed a modern, dynamic network backbone that simplified its hybrid multicloud architecture and eliminated the need to backhaul cloud traffic to its corporate data center.

Choosing the right partners

Working with Equinix and Cisco, VR Group’s architects evaluated different deployment options and selected the most optimal solution for its needs. By harnessing Network Edge services and Cisco virtual cloud routing, the company was able to build an optimized, agile and resilient digital infrastructure with low-latency access to AWS and Azure clouds.

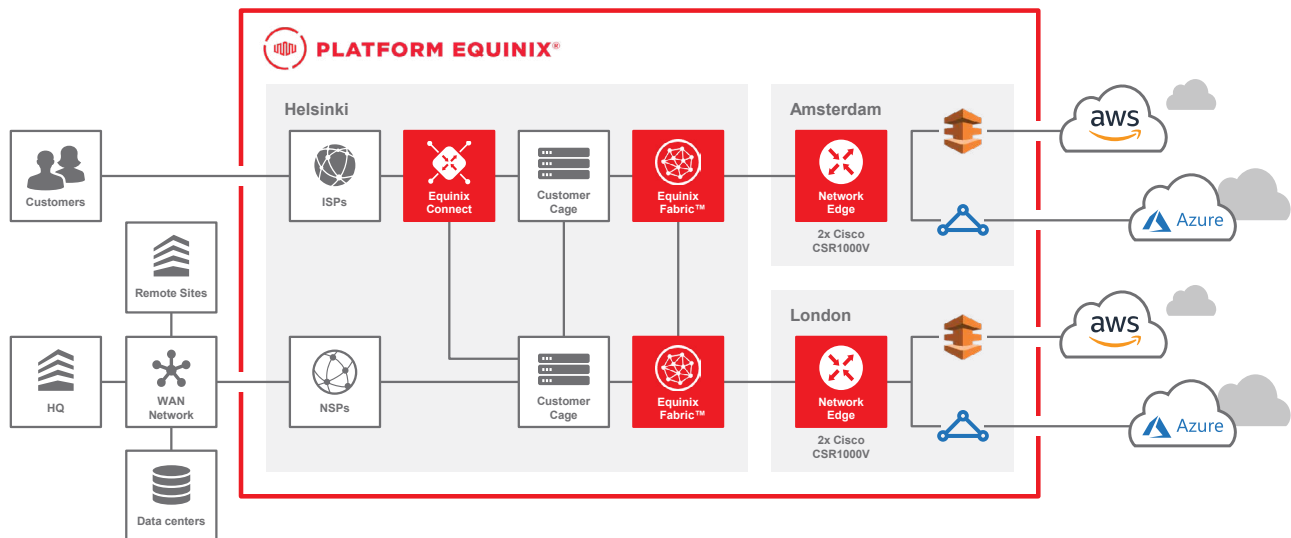
Choosing the right services

Network Edge, paired with Equinix Fabric™ software-defined interconnection, provided the company fast and secure, redundant connectivity to Microsoft Azure and AWS clouds in Amsterdam and London. This helped VR Group accelerate users’ access to its business applications and transportation services, greatly improving the internal and external user experience. Vendor-agnostic Equinix Fabric and Network Edge also establish a foundation for deploying other clouds and SaaS platforms and virtual network functions (VNF) capabilities, such as SD-WANs and firewalls.

Choosing the best connections

VR Group leveraged Equinix Fabric to enable private interconnection between AWS and Azure services and its Helsinki data centers, which were directly and securely connected via Equinix Metro Connect®. Equinix Connect provided reliable access to the public internet. The company’s active-active redundant business continuity and disaster recovery (BC/DR) environment provided the network resiliency it required to keep all of its apps and services running smoothly for its internal and external customers.

VR Group’s High-Performance and Resilient Hybrid Multicloud Architecture on Platform Equinix



“Reducing complexity and cost and increasing resiliency were key to our network optimization initiative. Network Edge and Equinix Fabric helped us accomplish all three—eliminating manual operations, saving a minimum of 60% in expenses and preventing network outages.”

Pasi Louko, Senior Network Architect, VR Group



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Value realized

By replacing its legacy backbone network with a more agile and scalable virtual network across its hybrid multicloud architecture, VR Group optimized its application performance and user experience through high-speed, low-latency interconnectivity to AWS and Microsoft Azure clouds. It also simplified network management and increased resiliency, eliminating the risk of outages that would have interrupted employee and customer access to mission-critical applications and services. As a result, VR Group gained a flexible, future-proofed digital infrastructure on Platform Equinix with lower network costs. An additional benefit to VR Group building its infrastructure at Equinix is that sustainability is core to both companies' businesses, and both take a "green by design" approach to their operations.

Faster application access

Leveraging Cisco virtual routers on Network Edge and Equinix Fabric, cloud application performance improved 100x due to the proximate connectivity to AWS and Microsoft Azure with single-digit latency (1-5 milliseconds).

Less network complexity

VNF-based cloud-to-cloud peering and cloud interconnectivity can be dynamically configured in minutes, rather than weeks or months.

Seamless resiliency

Dual-port connectivity via Equinix Fabric and redundant VNF devices provided greater network resiliency than legacy networks, eliminating network outages.

Lower costs

Physical networking equipment and connection costs were reduced by a minimum of 60% by deploying an optimized, dynamic digital infrastructure.

Supporting sustainability

Equinix and VR Group are both committed to meeting environmental sustainability goals and global initiatives. Equinix is committed to achieving 100% clean and renewable energy usage and investing in energy-efficiency technologies to make significant carbon reductions across its global data center portfolio. It has currently achieved over 90% renewable energy globally and is a charter member of the European Climate Neutral Data Centre Operator Pact and Self-Regulatory Initiative to ensure that European data centers are carbon neutral by 2030. VR Group's sustainability work is based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The company is committed to the Finnish government's ambitious goal of making Finland carbon neutral in 2035 and carbon negative soon after.

Results

Faster application access

Single-digit latency improved cloud app access performance 100x

Reduced complexity

Can deploy dynamic, virtual networking to access clouds in minutes

Seamless resiliency

Eliminated network outages, keeping apps/services running

Lower costs

Reduced overall network costs by a minimum of 60%

Supporting sustainability

Equinix and VR Group are both committed to carbon neutrality

Ready to get started?

Contact the [Equinix Sales team](#).



Power your digital leadership at Equinix

Globally deploy your infrastructure and services wherever opportunity leads. Directly and privately interconnect to your most important clouds, services and networks. Activate edge services on-demand to scale for success. On Platform Equinix®, you'll reach everywhere, interconnect everyone and integrate everything you need to create your best future. Get digital ready with Equinix.