Pluribus NETWORKS

Scavolini —Data Center Modernization with Pluribus Networks

SCAVOLINI®

Scavolini has grown from a small workshop in central Italy to a major international manufacturer of kitchens with business in more than 50 countries. For three generations, Scavolini has delivered innovative designs that inspire customers and transform homes. Since its founding, the company has been committed to innovation, both in the design of its kitchen cabinets and in the manufacturing and distribution processes behind it.

As Scavolini is a growing retailer with international operations and manufacturing facilities, the performance and reliability of its network and data center infrastructure is a key component of its success. After all, nearly three quarters of Scavolini's 700 employees rely on IT systems, including more than 15 critical business applications such as enterprise resource planning (ERP), Exchange email servers and computer-aided manufacturing (CAM) software for furniture production, all of which are supported by only two dedicated network staffers on a 16-person IT team.

Upgrade Without Expense

Much like the Scavolini design team is focused on kitchen cabinets, the IT team, although small, was looking ahead at the company's growth needs, from a geographic and data perspective. They realized that it was time for an upgrade to the data center and campus core, but they also realized that neither the budget nor the size of the team was going to increase. As a result, they quickly eliminated vertically integrated solutions from large networking vendors as options.

Instead, Scavolini evaluated open networking solutions, which can dramatically reduce networking capital costs by 30 to 60% over traditional vendors. Open networking solutions are based on disaggregating the hardware and software layers of traditional legacy switching platforms to open, standards-based, bare metal hardware with a choice of independent open software for network operating systems (NOS). Consequently, open networking principles enable Scavolini to assemble the best combination of networking hardware and software to meet its specific deployment requirements, while increasing flexibility and reducing acquisition and operational costs.

After evaluating open networking options, Scavolini chose Dell EMC open networking hardware running Pluribus Networks' Netvisor® ONE operating system.

> *"We now have something that is vendor-agnostic and open."*
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> **Edoardo Gentili**
> Information Systems Manager at Scavolini,
> in a June 2019 white paper sponsored by Dell EMC and
> Pluribus, written by analyst firm IDC, titled *How Network
> Disaggregation Facilitates Datacenter and IT Modernization*

Elegant Design Extended to the Data Center

Simplicity was the guiding principle for Scavolini, in network design as well as ongoing network operations. Scavolini implemented a leaf-and-spine topology to support north-south traffic on its data center servers, and the spine switches also serve as the core of Scavolini's campus network.

Scavolini chose Pluribus because the company delivered on the promise of software-defined networking (SDN) in the data center. Pluribus' Adaptive Cloud Fabric™ (ACF), powered by the Netvisor ONE network operating system, delivers a controllerless SDN fabric that provides a VXLAN virtual overlay and is ideal for simplifying networking operations.

Enhanced Visibility for Better Performance

Pluribus' telemetry provides visibility into application traffic traversing the Scavolini network, and that in turn provides Scavolini's IT team with insight into how the network architecture supports applications and users, enabling them to improve overall performance.

Fabric-Wide Automation

Pluribus' controllerless architecture leverages the processing power inside the switches, distributing the intelligence to every switch in the network. This means that from any switch, Scavolini's two-person networking team can see the entire fabric, troubleshoot the entire fabric or update policy across the fabric. This not only greatly enhances operational agility and efficiency; it virtually eliminates human error by enabling multiple data center sites to be programmed and automated as one logical entity.

> *"The most important benefit is operational efficiency and the associated network agility, in being able to make configuration changes simply and quickly. It has simplified network management, and we don't have to worry about or spend a lot of time on VLAN management. We can quickly move and focus on what needs to be done."*
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> **Edoardo Gentili**
> Information Systems Manager at Scavolini

Interoperability

Additional operational enhancements come through integration with VMware vCenter, which enables one-touch provisioning of network, compute and storage services from a single management interface.

> *"Through Pluribus' support for integration with VMware environments, we have the automation and orchestration we need built into the network architecture that allows us to spend less time focusing on infrastructure architecture itself, and to spend more time ensuring that the network supports the applications that help us get products to market faster."*
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> **Edoardo Gentili**
> Information Systems Manager at Scavolini

Bottom Line

For the past five years, Scavolini has had roughly the same IT and network budget. In that time, it has modernized and transformed its data center infrastructure, moving from a 10 Gigabit Ethernet (GbE) network to a leaf-and-spine network running at 25 GbE and 100 GbE. Scavolini's new network has delivered better network and application performance, along with an array of capabilities and features that the previous network did not offer. These include support for the company's initiatives in areas such as employee mobility (VDI), infrastructure modernization, IT cost containment and network virtualization.

Scavolini accomplished this by leveraging the disruptive economics of open networking solutions from Dell EMC together with the powerful operational benefits derived from Pluribus Networks' controllerless software-defined networking solutions.

Pluribus Networks, Inc.
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