

# WORKERS ACCIDENT MEDICAL CORPORATION (WAMC) STRENGTHENS STABILITY OF MEDICAL SERVICE WITH 3COM BACKBONE SWITCH

## OVERVIEW

Workers Accident Medical Corporation (WAMC) of Korea is a state-run institution providing medical services for workers injured in work-site accidents. Its two hospitals, Ansan Choongang General Hospital and Daejeon Choongang Medical Hospital, implemented gigabit backbone networks in 2002. However, they faced network stability problems as their fail-safe recovery measures malfunctioned because of ageing equipment and a sharp increase in data traffic.

These problems were overcome with the deployment of 3Com® Switch 8800 and 3Com Switch 4200 core and distribution switches, which paved the way for these hospitals to provide better medical service.

## CHALLENGE

It was quite clear that the serious network stability problems at Daejeon and Ansan Choongang General Hospitals were caused both by ageing equipment and a significant increase in data traffic. The hospitals were also getting poor technical support from their existing vendor. Under these circumstances, WAMC decided to replace the network equipment at these hospitals.

As government-funded healthcare organizations, it is relatively difficult for the hospitals to justify new equipment purchases. All equipment supplied to WAMC must therefore be stable and long-lasting. Also, as the hospitals have a large number of staff using applications and generating high-volumes of data traffic every day, networking equipment must provide high performance under heavy loads.



### CUSTOMER NAME/LOCATION:

Workers Accident Medical Corporation,  
Seoul, Korea

### FOUNDED:

1995

### EMPLOYEES:

2,058

### INDUSTRY:

Health care

### APPLICATIONS:

Medical treatment system (Integrated Medical Information System, PACS); Administration System (Electronic Payment System, Messenger, Knowledge Management System)

### GOALS:

Improve network stability

Improve quality of medical service

### 3COM SOLUTION COMPONENTS:

3Com® Switch 8800

3Com Switch 4200 28-Port

### RESULTS:

Enhanced capability to deliver large capacity data; better network stability for improved medical service; higher availability through fault tolerance



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## THE SOLUTION

After evaluating the many networking solutions available, including intensive field tests, WAMC selected the 3Com Switch 8800 10-Gigabit level large-capacity switch as its backbone switch, and the 3Com Switch 4200 as its workgroup switch. Two units each of the 3Com Switch 8800 and 15 units each of the 3Com Switch 4200 28-Port were deployed at Ansan Choongang General Hospital and Daejeon Choongang Medical Hospital.

## Key Benefits

### FAULT TOLERANCE

"We were able to configure the 3Com switches into a fault-tolerant system within a reasonable budget," said Shin Geum-ho, Manager of the Computing Information Team, at WAMC. "In several failure tests, we achieved complete failover within a short period of time."

He added, "This immediately solved WAMC's past problem of the fail-safe measures not kicking in during network failures."

The secret behind the cost-effective fault tolerance lies in the modular design of the 3Com Switch 8800. It provides fail-safe networking by employing redundant features such as auxiliary power supply device, fan and switch fabric and hot-swappable switching I/O module.

### HIGH PERFORMANCE

With the deployment of the 3Com solutions, the online transaction processing has improved, even during periods of high traffic, said Shin. "This is especially evident in our enterprise applications such as PACS that are heavily accessed by users and which carry large amounts of data."

While the 3Com Switch 8800 and Switch 4200 were designed for high performance from the ground up, they also support full duplexing which supports two-way data transfers and effectively doubles the bandwidth.

## EASY TO MANAGE AND MAINTAIN

In addition to high performance, 3Com equipment is easy to operate and manage, said Shin, and this has enabled WAMC to reduce its management and maintenance costs.

"In organizations like ours where IT manpower resources are limited, the 3Com switches are a definite boon because it takes only one or two IT staff to manage the entire network," said Shin.

## LOOKING FORWARD

The cumulative effect of the benefits delivered by the 3Com switches is smoother network operations that ultimately translate into higher quality care for the hospitals' patients.

"This new stable infrastructure from 3Com has given us greater confidence to develop more patient-centric services, and extend our services to external organizations," said Shin. "It will also enable us to build the foundation for knowledge management, innovation and efficient results-based management."

Shin Geum-ho, Manager of the Computing Information Team, WAMC

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