

A blue-toned network diagram with various sized circles connected by lines, representing a complex communication or data network. The diagram is partially obscured by a white rounded rectangle containing the title.

ABB

looks to the future with ADC KRONE

CASE STUDY

ABB, the leading power and automation technology group, recently moved its Victorian operations to Notting Hill (20 minutes from the Melbourne CBD), as part of a centralisation plan for this state. Commenting on the move, Laurie Mason, Vice President Information Systems for ABB said "We wanted a state-of-the-art communications infrastructure that could be used as a template for ABB sites around the world. We have installed a Cisco VoIP network running all of our IP based and Microsoft applications as well as our various ERP systems. The convergence of all these applications has meant that network performance and availability was our number one priority. We chose an ADC KRONE TrueNet® solution because of the quality guarantee. Whilst people accept some re-transmission, or failed packets, in their data network, you simply cannot afford this when your telephones are IP based. Poor voice quality is every network manager's worst nightmare."



Damien Nguhyen, ABB and Bill Wassink, BNC Installations.

CASE STUDY

ABB chose to use the HighBand® 25 Patch-by-Exception solution at the cross-connect. "We were looking to cable for the future and the HighBand 25 solution provided the benefits we needed. Features like improved cable management, ease-of-use and the immaculate presentation of the frames convinced us that this was the way to go. The performance we are now getting from our network is extremely high with no down-time", said Mr Mason.

The site was cabled using seven 900-pair verticals and nearly seven hundred KM8 outlets. "While the installation was completed over a three month period, this had to be tempered by the knowledge that the actual building completion program had a lot to do with the scheduling", said Mr Mason.

Being a Patch-by-Exception site, ABB simply have a contractor come in each fortnight to remove the patch cords and hard-wire any of the permanent changes. These changes are

minimal as ABB have taken a "most ports active" approach to their cabling. Simply put, computers and telephones can be moved to almost any outlet, plugged in, and they will connect to the network. Another advantage over an RJ45 cross-connect is that unauthorised changes are made more difficult. As most network managers know, end-users re-patching "because they can" can be frightening and as a result was eradicated at the Notting Hill site.

250 Notting Hill employees are located in two buildings connected by a fibre backbone. ABB is now planning to connect a further six sites throughout Melbourne and regional Victoria. "Having one integrated (VoIP) wide area network improves efficiencies and cuts costs", said Mr Mason. "We have already achieved significant savings through reducing the number of printers and faxes required from more than 60, down to eight.



Patching into active equipment.

The VoIP telephone solution using Cisco has allowed centralisation of the switchboard for Victoria and as part of the national template, we have designed an effective fail-over solution interstate for business continuity purposes.”

Upon completion of the project, ABB's executive committee member, Mr Gary Steel (from the parent company in Zurich), toured the Melbourne site and was very impressed with what had been achieved. It now looks likely that an IP converged network utilising HighBand® 25 Patch-by-Exception methodology could become the global ABB standard.



HighBand 25 rack.

CASE STUDY

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KRONE



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