

Luxembourg Airport Has Modernised Critical National Infrastructure with Cisco



uxembourg's only international airport, Luxembourg Airport (lux-Airport) recently modernised its technology infrastructure and simplified its operations with a host of Cisco technologies.

Modernising Critical Infrastructure

Vincent Booz knew he had a big job in front of him as the new IT director for Luxembourg Airport (lux-Airport). But he didn't know how big until he began assessing the airport's legacy technology systems.

"It was a bit of a shock," says Booz. "I thought they would be more advanced."

Thus began a sweeping effort to modernise lux-Airport's technology infrastructure, with consolidation, cloud enablement, security and operational simplification as the top priorities.

Luxembourg Airport's aging systems have since been replaced with a host of Cisco technologies, including Cisco UCS X-Series Modular Systems for collaboration, Cisco HyperFlex Systems for virtual workloads and Cisco UCS C-Series Rack Servers for hyperscale storage. According to Booz, the technologies provide cloud connectivity as well as high levels of reliability and security.

"As Luxembourg's only international airport, we represent critical infrastructure for the country," he says. "Cisco solutions give us exceptional availability and security, whether we host our applications onpremises or in the cloud."

Bringing Technology Operations In-House

In addition to modernising the airport's technology infrastructure, Booz also wanted to bring systems management responsibilities in-house.

"Outsourcing is costly," he explains, "and we wanted to regain control."

The Cisco Intersight cloud operations platform has been a key enabler of the transition, allowing lux-Airport to manage multiple platforms and hybrid workloads with a single tool.

"Bringing technology operations in-house hasn't been a challenge," Booz says. "We have much more visibility, insight and control, and everything is connected to the Cisco TAC [Technology Assistance Center] in case we ever have a problem and need help."

With active/active redundancy and Commvault backup for on-premises and cloud-based workloads, systems availability and reliability haven't been issues.

"There is no chance of failure or downtime," Booz says.

Increasing Sustainability

Sustainability is also a major priority for lux-Airport, as one of 100 airports in Europe committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. According to Booz, Cisco UCS X-Series servers and Cisco HyperFlex have helped reduce the airport's technology and carbon footprints.

"Both platforms have the latest chipsets, and they're smaller and more energy-efficient than legacy systems," he says. "We're also using fewer controllers, which typically require their own power source."

Additional sustainability gains will soon be realised when the airport's core network is modernised. Deploying the latest Cisco Nexus data centre switches and Cisco UCS fabric interconnects will allow lux-Airport to remove an entire layer of switches and associated cabling, simplify the airport's network infrastructure, and further reduce power consumption.

"We have achieved Level 3+ [of Airport Carbon Accreditation], which represents carbon neutrality, by increasing the use of renewable hydropower and reducing emissions," Booz says. "Technology modernisation is certainly part of the equation and helping us become more efficient and sustainable."

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