



Building a robust multi-cloud network within 48 hours for critical business operations

Summary

Console Connect is a leading Network-as-a-Service (NaaS) platform built on PCCW Global’s Tier 1 network, delivering Layer 2 and Layer 3 connectivity solutions. With connections across over 1,000 data centers and 350 cloud on-ramps worldwide, Console Connect’s high-performance platform enables businesses to securely access and manage their cloud infrastructure with seamless scalability and visibility.

About the client

The client is the leading electric utility in Europe, offering comprehensive energy generation, distribution, and advanced energy services across multiple countries. Serving millions of customers’ energy annually, the client has been instrumental in the electrification and modernization of the European power industry. Having transitioned from a traditional power utility to a diversified energy provider, the client is at the forefront of digital innovation within the sector, continually expanding its service offerings and footprint across borders.

Challenge: Digital transformation and cloud connectivity

As part of its ambitious digital transformation strategy, the client sought to migrate from on-premises infrastructure to a multi-cloud environment. This transformation aimed to enhance resiliency, efficiency, and scalability to support the client’s rapid international expansion and new digital offerings. The client needed a connectivity partner capable of enabling high-performance cloud connectivity with advanced automation and visibility tools.

After issuing an RFP in 2021, the client selected Console Connect as its partner for the initial migration of services to Microsoft Azure’s London cloud instance. Console Connect’s Layer 2 managed connectivity met the client’s requirements for robust, secure private cloud connectivity, offering diverse 500Mbps connections between the client’s on-premises data centre and Microsoft Azure London.

Solutions: Enabling a multi-cloud strategy

The client's evolving needs required high-performance, multi-cloud connectivity solutions to support its expanding network and international infrastructure. Working closely with the client, Console Connect developed a tailored solution to support this complex, multi-cloud environment:

Microsoft Azure: Console Connect provided the client with 2 x 1Gbps upgraded Layer 2 managed connectivity between its data center and Azure's London cloud instance. This supported the client's back-office applications, customer billing systems, retail solutions, and supplier management, allowing the company to transition its legacy services to the cloud.

Oracle Cloud: Console Connect provided 2 x 1Gbps connections to Oracle's Amsterdam cloud instance, supporting the client's W-CRM, billing systems, and HRMS applications. This connectivity enabled the client to efficiently manage core HR and customer relationship functions while maintaining strict data isolation.

IBM Cloud: With increased demand for resilient, cross-cloud connectivity, the client also required private connections to IBM's cloud services in Frankfurt and London. Console Connect facilitated these connections by deploying 1Gbps Layer 2 managed links, allowing seamless access to IBM for the client's SAP IS-U solutions and other mission-critical applications.

AWS Cloud: Most recently, the client added AWS to its multi-cloud strategy with a 500Mbps primary and backup connection to AWS Frankfurt, leveraging Console Connect's platform to manage the various cloud integrations.

CloudRouter®: Simplifying cloud-to-cloud traffic

As the client scaled its multi-cloud infrastructure, significant inter-cloud traffic emerged, primarily between Microsoft Azure and IBM Cloud instances.

Console Connect introduced its CloudRouter® service, enabling seamless, Layer 3 direct connections between the client's Azure and IBM cloud environments. By using CloudRouter®, the client could create isolated, high-performance cloud-to-cloud connections with enhanced security, resiliency, and automation. This approach accelerated the deployment of a secure multi-cloud network, in some cases within 48 hours, and enabled comprehensive management through the Console Connect portal.

Results and benefits

- **Rapid deployment:** The client was able to establish a robust multi-cloud network within 48 hours for critical business operations, meeting the demands of its fast-paced digital transformation.
- **Enhanced visibility and control:** With Console Connect's portal, the client gained full visibility and control over its cloud connections, enabling efficient management of isolated circuits for subsidiaries across countries.
- **Cost and time efficiency:** Console Connect's high-performance Layer 3 CloudRouter® reduced time-to-market for the client's digital services, ensuring quick deployment of new applications and services.
- **Scalability for expansion:** The flexibility and scalability of Console Connect's platform allowed the client to rapidly onboard new cloud providers, ensuring that the client's evolving infrastructure remained resilient and adaptable.

Conclusion

Through Console Connect's tailored connectivity solutions, the client achieved its digital transformation objectives, creating a resilient, high-performance multi-cloud infrastructure that supports its international expansion and diverse service offerings. Console Connect's NaaS platform provided the foundation for the client to enhance its operational efficiency, scalability, and customer experience, positioning it as a forward-looking leader in the energy sector.