Case Study

Industry: Government

Sarasota County, FL

Project: New converged optical network

Major challenge: Creating a united, simplified network

The challenge.

Sarasota County encompasses more than 600 square miles on Florida's west coast. The county government consists of 4,400 employees operating from as many as 32 locations. Its ability to provide fast and reliable services to more than 277,000 residents depends upon a powerful voice and data system.

When Sarasota County began the search for network integration expertise to completely rebuild its out-of-date communications infrastructure, it selected Black Box. The mission: to provide a total telecommunications solution from design and engineering to installation and on-site management.

The solution.

After careful analysis of the county's existing telecommunications infrastructure, the Black Box team planned a converged voice and data network that would unite the county's operations, streamline internal administrative functions, and improve communications with county residents by phone and on-line. Three Black Box teams worked on the project: voice, data, and optical. The teams helped define key objectives and solutions for the new voice and data system.

Unite a disparate voice and data network: The county used multiple systems from various manufacturers, making the network difficult to manage, integrate, and maintain. Black Box planned and installed a unified network that was easy to use, maintain, and upgrade.

Establish a simple dialing plan: A complex dialing plan with 13 different telephone prefixes made it difficult for residents to locate employees and departments. Black Box resolved the problem by creating a simplified plan consisting of one prefix for the entire county.

Use one internal fiber, multimedia network: Black Box provided a core optical ring that is bit-rate and protocol independent to accommodate any future voice, data, or video applications. The Black Box solution enabled the county to use its own fiber network for all its voice, data, and video applications, reducing ongoing telco charges.

Staffing: Because technical support was a key priority for the county, Black Box provided an engineer on-site for one year to manage the network. Black Box also provided classes for county employees to become Nortel™ certified.

Reduce communications expenditures: The Black Box solution included standardized equipment that enabled economies of maintenance, as well as a centralized network management system.

Establish a platform for the future: Adaptability for growth was a critical objective. The Black Box solution enabled the county's network to continue to grow in size, applications, bandwidth, and technology.

The results.

Black Box successfully installed the new network. After installation, the Black Box mission continued with on-site management and ongoing consulting services.

"Black Box has provided a complete and powerful network solution to bring Sarasota County to the leading edge of 21st century technology, and that means better services and lower costs for our 277,000 residents. Black Box's innovative plan enables us to use the county's existing fiber to unite our voice and data network, reducing our ongoing telecommunications charges, saving the county hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in leased line costs, and creating a network with unlimited growth capacity."
Robert D. Hanson, CIO, Sarasota County

BLACK BOX®
NETWORK SERVICES

724-746-5500 | blackbox.com