

## BECU

### New Data Centers Expand BECU's IT Footprint



#### SOLUTION OVERVIEW

- To support growth and expansion and better serve their members, BECU extended their IT footprint with collocated infrastructure in two separate data center facilities in geographically dispersed locations.
- Cerium worked with BECU to develop data center designs using Cisco Nexus switches, ISR routers, ASR routers, and UCS C-Series rack-mount servers

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Founded in 1935, BECU is a not-for-profit credit union serving its members from 60 convenient walk-in locations throughout the Puget Sound region, Spokane, and South Carolina. BECU has over \$18 billion in assets and over 1.2 million members, making it the largest credit union in Washington and fourth largest in the United States. Their philosophy of putting people first and their commitment to ensuring their members always experience the best value and services with complete trust, differentiate BECU from other financial institutions.

#### The Challenge

To support growth and expansion and better serve their members, BECU needed to extend their IT footprint. With goals of increasing performance, improving disaster recovery and providing a highly-available environment, they sought a future-ready data center solution with the ability to scale up as their organization grows and evolves. BECU determined the best way to meet their goals was to augment

their existing data centers with collocated infrastructure in two separate data center facilities in geographically dispersed locations.

We spoke with Bob Phinney, BECU's Manager, Systems Engineering, Network & Telecom about the data center rollout. "We needed a state of the art data center solution that could provide high-speed access to the massively scalable compute and storage resources offered by the Microsoft Azure Cloud," Bob said. "We didn't want to put all of our eggs in one basket and determined that collocating servers on both coasts was our best option."

BECU knew they needed the right technology and a trusted partner to help them achieve their goals. After considering all available options, they chose Cisco Systems to provide the core network and compute infrastructure for new data centers, and Cerium Networks, a Cisco Gold Partner, to provide professional engineering services. *"We have a long, trusted relationship with Cerium and we appreciate their deep Cisco Networking Engineering skillset"* Bob replied when asked about what led BECU to partner with Cerium.

## The Solution

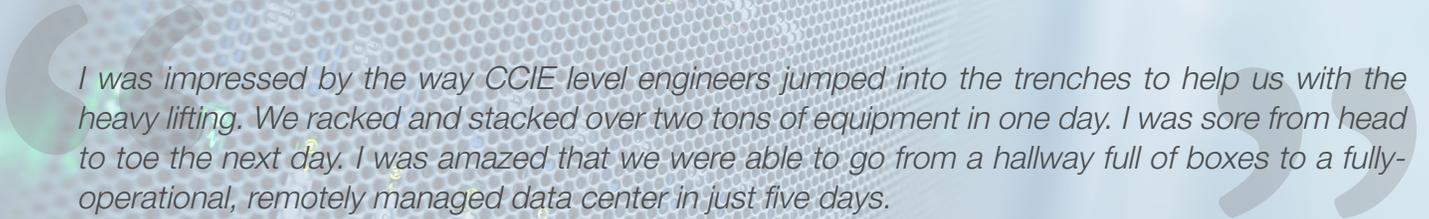
BECU identified top-tier, enterprise-class colocation facilities on both coasts to host their mission-critical servers. Then Bob and his team, along with solution architects from Cerium and Cisco, developed the data center designs. They chose Cisco Nexus switches, ISR routers, ASR routers, and UCS C-Series rack-mount servers. The Cisco Nexus switches offer proven high-performance and density, low-latency, and exceptional power efficiency. Versatile, industry-leading Cisco routers provide secure, high-quality services. Cisco UCS C-Series rackmount servers deliver superior unified computing in an industry-standard form factor that reduces TCO and increases agility.

Bob and a BECU engineer along with two certified Cerium engineers were on-site to receive the hardware, rack and stack, and cable all the gear to industry standards.

The deployment went smoothly and efficiently and was completed to specifications on schedule. *"Cerium on-site engineers were impressive. They are consummate professionals with deep knowledge of network and data center technologies."* Bob remarked. *"I was impressed by the way CCIE level engineers jumped into the trenches to help us with the heavy lifting. We racked and stacked over two tons of equipment in one day. I was sore from head to toe the next day. I was amazed that we were able to go from a hallway full of boxes to a fully-operational, remotely managed data center in just five days."*

## The Results

The additional capacity and dispersed data center locations have improved network availability and performance for BECU staff and their members. With high availability servers on both coasts hosting mission-critical applications, BECU feels more confident about their ability to recover in the event of an unexpected incident. When asked about the results of the project, Bob replied: *"Having reliable, highly available servers on both seaboard enables us to serve our members across America more efficiently."*



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— Bob Phinney, Manager of Systems Engineering, Network & Telecom

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