HSCN Introduction

LinchPin Networks are one of the first authorised dealers for The Convergence Group, a trade only organisation that are the first network provider to be HSCN certified in the UK.

The Health and Social Care Network (HSCN) is a new data network for health and care organisations which replaced N3. It provides the underlying network arrangements to help integrate and transform health and social care services by enabling them to access and share information more reliably, flexibly and efficiently.

HSCN Accredited WAN Services

Convergence Group's HSCN WAN services are a set of comprehensive, flexible services for a wide variety of business uses. Convergence Group's Private WAN solutions can be used in many ways, allowing businesses to employ new and more effective methods of operation. Key to this is getting the most out of IT applications without traditional barriers between sites and users. Typical IT applications include:

- Email & Diary systems
- General office applications
- Purchasing and order processing
- Financial reporting, billing and payroll
- HSCN consumer relationship management
- Access to contact databases
- Access to the NHS Spine services
- Access to files (shared and private)
- Web access
- Voice and video over IP
- Back-up and disaster recovery

Such a diverse range of applications, and how they are deployed and used, drives demand for flexible methods of communication, which can be addressed by Convergence Group's HSCN WAN products. Typical communication requirements include:

- Integrating a wide range of sites and users through the delivery of the right type of product and service in terms of performance, reliability and cost
- Flexible any-to-any connectivity between multiple company sites allowing users to access business applications located anywhere on the network
- Supporting IT applications that demand high performance connectivity, ensuring the effectiveness of users and their applications are not impaired by the network
- Adding and removing sites quickly and cost-effectively, allowing a company to grow and adapt the network as business needs dictate.
- Connecting remote sites and users via highly secure communications, protecting the confidentiality of company information
- Enabling mobile and home workers to securely access IT resources over broadband connections
- Providing secure, high performance Internet access from the MPLS WAN
- Providing secure, resilient connectivity to the HSCN Peering Exchange and NHS Spine Network

- Supporting and prioritising multiple types of traffic over a single connection, including voice, video, business critical data (e.g. SAP, Oracle, Citrix), and standard data (e.g. email, web, file transfers)
- The ability to free up valuable IT resources by purchasing a fully managed WAN service that includes the design, delivery, management and maintenance of a complete solution

Convergence Group WAN products are based on MPLS and provide a secure private HSCN WAN solution which include:

- Secure / Private networking over our dedicated MPLS core backbone
- Secure / Resilient connection to the HSCN Peering Exchange Network
- Multiple circuit options ranging from Ethernet Leased lines through to ADSL
- Scalable, reliable and flexible
- Reduced WAN cost due to our unique Carrier frameworks
- Any to Any deployment and no need to terminate at one location
- Access to Multiple Services enhancements such as Internet and SIP connectivity
- QoS support to provide assured bandwidth and traffic management

Service Highlights

Flexible range of access options including:

- High performance dedicated Ethernet over fibre, Ethernet in the First Mile (EFM) and Ethernet FTTC services for sites where network performance is critical.
- Value for money broadband services, ADSL or FTTC for smaller offices and remote workers

Private WAN configuration with traffic separation ensuring that it is secure and unique to each HSCN consumer. Flexible connectivity between sites, including:

- Hub and Spoke (branch sites communicating only with the central site).
- Any to any (all sites able to communicate with all other sites)
- Or a combination of the above

Multi VLAN capability on dedicated Ethernet Access options. This gives the option for example of providing connectivity for MPLS traffic across one VLAN and dedicated Internet access across the second VLAN, both on the same physical circuit. In doing so HSCN consumers are able to utilise both networks across one link reducing costs.

Comprehensive Service Management including:

- Design, configuration and installation of the HSCN Managed WAN
- Round the clock proactive monitoring and performance logging from Convergence Group's Network Operations Centre (NOC)
- 24x7x365 technical support provided by our UK based NOC
- Service level agreements with availability and quality of service guarantees

Service Benefits

There are a wide range of benefits for HSCN consumers:

- Improving effectiveness through improved communication between your sites, and through making internal resources more accessible to remote users, your business productivity and effectiveness will improve. Convergence Group's WAN products provide a strong combination of the right performance levels for the business application, flexibility to allow any site to communicate with any other site and a highly reliable solution to ensure your business continuity is maintained

- Reducing & controlling operations costs, your communications costs can be reduced through the use of IP services that connect your business. Ethernet and Broadband access technologies have evolved significantly over the last few years, providing increasing levels of network performance whilst the cost per Mbps has fallen. For example, EFM and Ethernet FTTC services are able to deliver dedicated high bandwidth services more cost effectively than traditional fibre based Ethernet services

- Protecting critical assets by creating unique, separate VPNs over Convergence Group's core network, the confidentiality of your data communications around your network can be assured, whether between offices or for users who remotely access internal resources. Separation can also be done to enable other HSCN Service Providers to deliver hosted applications to multiple clients securely. Optional Managed Firewall and Web Filtering services ensure that communication with the outside world via the Internet is also protected

- Greater ability to manage business change, the networking needs of your business will change over time. Converge Group's WAN products are highly flexible and can be adapted as those needs change, for example by adding or moving a site or increasing the bandwidth into a site to handle new applications. Convergence Group's solution is very scalable and will be able to cope with your future growth needs. By integrating the latest technologies into the service, you can be assured that your investment will be protected over time as your service evolves

For more information on how to implement an HSCN solution for your organisation please contact us using the details below.

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