

NTT-ME Adopts Juniper Networks M-series Routers to Handle Increased Traffic Volume in a High-Performance Network



Masatoshi Ito, Manager
XePhion Business Headquarters
WAKWAK Service Department
NTT-ME Corporation

NTT-ME, a strategic subsidiary of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone East Corporation, has been experiencing a surge of growth in the broadband network space. Established to strengthen the leading position of NTT East Corporation, NTT-ME is able to offer a wide range of services to its customers. Providing broadband network services for home users and small office/home office (SOHO) users, called “WAKWAK,” and “XePhion High-speed Internet Connection Services” for corporate users, NTT-ME’s subscriber base for WAKWAK services has grown to more than 230,000 users in the three years since services were first offered. The corporate-oriented XePhion service now serves 2,200 user companies with the number of domains under management at 1,400. Just as important, user satisfaction surveys show a high rate of user satisfaction with the services, adding to NTT-ME’s already well-established reputation. NTT-ME is now also ranked as one of the top ten ISPs in Japan, based on traffic volume. “We haven’t deployed large scale ad campaigns, but the number of our customers is increasing sharply,” says Masatoshi Ito, Manager, XePhion Business Headquarters, WAKWAK Service Department, NTT-ME Corporation.

Increasing Traffic Volumes Require an Upgrade to the Network Backbone

With an ever-expanding customer base and increasing volumes of network traffic, NTT-ME determined it needed to significantly upgrade its backbone network to handle the increased traffic. “Juniper Networks routers were highly regarded for both speed and reliability. Also, because Juniper has a good track record in the industry, we could use their routers without worry. Juniper routers achieved wire-speed performance without incurring a performance penalty, even after setting several hundred account lists, and that fact made them more attractive than other routers,” explained Kazuomi Kurai, XePhion Business Headquarters, “WAKWAK” Service Department, NTT-ME. The ability to provide both advanced functions and high performance is one of the most important features of Juniper routers for NTT-ME. “In terms of performance results, the cost per port of M-series routers can be more reasonable than other competitors,” Mr. Kurai said.

Configuring and Testing the Network

Prior to deploying Juniper Networks M-series routers, NTT-ME had used two routers, one backbone router as both an edge or border router and a core router and a second for redundancy. Now, with the new configuration, two Juniper M20 routers and one M10 router serve as edge routers. An additional M20 router is used in the core. By adopting this configuration with double and triple redundancy, the possibility of failures is minimized. Additionally, M10 routers play an important role as access routers for heavy traffic areas. In March 2001, NTT-ME purchased Juniper Networks routers to test them as part of a plan to upgrade the backbone network. After repeated successful testing, the routers were deployed in the backbone network in March 2002. “The backbone network is our lifeline. We thoroughly examined the performance of the Juniper Networks equipment and, as a result, became convinced they could meet our expectations,” said Mr. Ito. “We also noticed how easy to operate the Juniper routers were and we were able to greatly reduce our network management workload. Also, because of the flexible module configuration provided by these routers, we can construct highly expandable networks,” added Mr. Kurai.



Future Plans for More Expansion with the T640 Series

Nissho Electronics Corporation, a partner of Juniper Networks, facilitated the deployment of the equipment at NTT-ME. Nissho Electronics is also highly rated by NTT-ME. "Their capabilities in support and technology are outstanding and they are very reliable," stated Mr. Ito. "They respond to our inquiries quickly, precisely and conscientiously. And they provide us with regular updates on new products and have their own POC lab so we can investigate new products as they become available."

In addition to the WAKWAK service, NTT-ME is also expanding its offerings in XePhion High-speed Internet Connection Service, particularly in the VPN area. The company provides various solutions with a cost-performance ratio that is overwhelmingly superior to that of other competitors. NTT-ME is also providing an IP telephone service called "XePhion Call Pro" as well as a wide range of other services such as data center service and CDN business.

Future plans call for connection to other ISPs mainly in Osaka to handle traffic in the West Japan area. "Certainly we are again thinking of the M-series routers as edge routers and core routers in the Osaka area. What's more, we are considering introducing the T640 series so we can support 10 Gigabit networks," said Taichi Igarashi, XePhion Business Headquarters, "WAKWAK" Service Department, NTT-ME.



www.juniper.net

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS AND SALES HEADQUARTERS

FOR NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA
Juniper Networks, Inc.
1194 North Mathilda Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94089 USA
Phone: 888-JUNIPER (888-586-4737)
or 408-745-2000
Fax: 408-745-2100

EAST COAST OFFICE

Juniper Networks, Inc.
10 Technology Park Drive
Westford, Massachusetts
01886-3146 USA
Phone: 978-589-5800
Fax: 978-589-0800

EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA REGIONAL SALES HEADQUARTERS

Juniper Networks
Juniper House
Guilford Road
Leatherhead
Surrey, UK
KT22 9JH
Phone: +44 (0) 1372 385500
Fax: +44 (0) 1372 385501

ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL SALES HEADQUARTERS

Juniper Networks (Hong Kong) Ltd.
Suite 1601-06, Natwest Tower
Times Square, 1 Matheson Street
Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
Phone: 852-2332-3636
Fax: 852-2574-7803

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