



Stop Burning the Midnight Oil: Shell Oil Uses Omnicast eCDN Products to Simplify Software Distribution and Upgrades

At a Glance

- Royal Dutch/Shell needed a simple, effective way to update software on 80,000 machines in over 135 countries
- Royal Dutch/Shell needed to eliminate bandwidth costs, and lessen IT overhead associated with upgrades
- OmniCast eCDN products produced astounding ROI, cutting distribution time from days to hours and bandwidth utilization ninety-nine percent



Shell – Defining the Energy Industry

The Royal Dutch/Shell Group of companies is a diverse collection of energy companies with operations in more than 135 countries. The Group's businesses include oil and gas exploration and production; power generation; manufacturing, marketing and shipping of oil products and chemicals; and wind and solar renewable energy projects.

The world's #3 oil and gas group has proven reserves of 9.7 million barrels of oil and 56.2 trillion cubic feet of gas. The group, a unique joint venture between Royal Dutch Petroleum and Shell Transport and Trading, generates revenues mainly from its integrated oil businesses. It also operates more than 46,000 gas stations worldwide.

Regular software upgrades enable employees to be more productive.

Global software distribution to standardize the organization

Multinational corporations face a tremendous challenge in keeping their employees up-to-date with the latest technology available. Far more than just an administrative IT task, executives have recognized that keeping up with new technology is a strategic imperative for the corporation as a whole.

Software distribution is a function that applies to almost every computer in an organization, regardless of where it lives. For a company like Shell, the task spans over 80,000 desktops and laptops in approximately 135 countries. While software distribution may be used for vital upgrades, it can also be used for software patches, configuration file updates, and document distribution.

When an organization effectively embraces regular software distribution, IT costs are lowered through efficient upgrading, lowered version support requirements, and decreased license costs. Additionally, employees are empowered and more productive with the latest software available

OmniCast eCDN Dispatcher is an agent-based distribution system that only requires a small software agent to be deployed on each remote server.

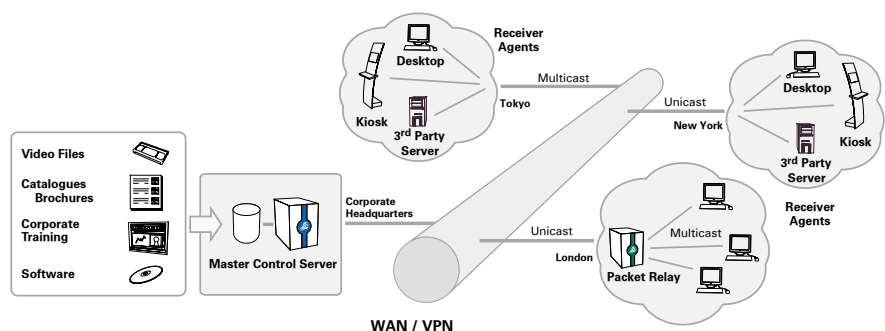
Omnicast eCDN meets the Challenge

The OmniCast eCDN family of products from The Fantastic Corporation has been used by Shell for over a year as part of the Group Infrastructure project to rollout Windows 2000 within the Shell global organization. Before making a decision, Shell looked at a number of systems management products and decided to go with OmniCast eCDN Dispatcher for its robustness, Total Cost of Ownership and ability to handle a wide variety of network types.

OmniCast eCDN Dispatcher has been deployed at distribution points throughout Shell's global IP network to control the distribution of mandatory and business specific applications to all offices in the 140 countries where the Shell organization has a presence. Distribution is controlled from a central point in Kuala Lumpur where, through using OmniCast ECDN Dispatcher, operations staff can choose to distribute software to specific groups of Shell's offices. After a quarter of the way through rollout to 80,000 desktop and laptop machines, Shell Services International was so impressed with OmniCast that they are considering the use of OmniCast for other projects.

OmniCast eCDN Dispatcher is an agent-based distribution system that only requires a small software agent to be deployed on each remote server. A Master Control Server then allows for complete scheduling, monitoring, and maintenance of thousands of remote agents.

This effective combination of Master Control Server and remote software agent enables reliable, efficient data transfer to each location, but also allows remote execution of scripts. This means that along with reliable data transfers, Shell can use OmniCast eCDN Dispatcher to execute installation or maintenance scripts on remote servers, freeing local IT administrators from time-consuming installation processes.



OmniCast eCDN Dispatcher eliminates tangible expenses from a company's bottom line, including:

- CD-ROMs or other media manufacturing costs
- Traditional postal delivery costs
- IT administration



Financial ROI of the OmniCast Solution

OmniCast eCDN Dispatcher will provide significant ROI in terms of bandwidth utilization and IT time spent on administering software upgrades. The following table examines the cost and time savings of OmniCast versus traditional FTP transfers. This analysis assumes an available multicast infrastructure and is not customer related.

Transfer Type	File Size	Bandwidth	Receivers	Time to send file once	Time to send file to all	Transfer Volume
FTP	640 MB	512 K	1,000	2hr 51 min	118 d 12 hr	625 GB
OmniCast eCDN Dispatcher	640 MB	512 K	1,000	2hr 51 min	2hr 51 min	640 MB
Savings					99.8%	99.9%

Additionally, many organizations may still have to mail upgrades to remote offices and do manual software installs at each location. OmniCast can provide even greater benefit in these situations, eliminating traditional postal delivery costs as well as the need for specialized IT support in remote locations. In addition to software content delivery, OmniCast enables remote script execution, ensuring that the software can be installed directly from headquarters

Additional Benefits of OmniCast eCDN Dispatcher

Besides the hard, clearly defined financial benefits, Fantastic OmniCast products bring a number of additional financial benefits to an organization that regularly distributes information, data, or content. Although these benefits are not as isolated as those discussed above, they can have an impressive cumulative effect on corporate productivity.

- Less technical support needed at remote locations due to OmniCast's remote script execution capabilities.
- Less corporate administrative overhead for information dissemination.
- More productive and profitable dealers as a result of up-to-date tools and information.
- Central control and self-healing, self-monitoring capabilities for the delivery of content, which can enable more frequent updates and new services for the same cost.

About Fantastic Software

The Fantastic Corporation produces software for rich data distribution in corporate networks. Its product suite for enterprise Content Delivery Networks (eCDN) allows corporations to boost the performance of their existing IT networks.

Fantastic's products are the first highly scalable IP multicast file transfer solutions that guarantee extremely reliable, one-to-many data delivery. While current point-to-point file transfer methods use a bandwidth-consuming approach to delivering information, Fantastic's products enable servers to distribute data over the network simultaneously to all recipients, using bandwidth much more efficiently and significantly reducing the load on the sending servers, saving time for administrators, and allowing employees to do their jobs more efficiently.

Fantastic's products are multi-platform, cross-platform applications that are network independent.

A free 30 day OmniCast trial is available for download at www.fantastic.com.

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