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Accelerating Wide-Area File Delivery SAP



SOLUTION AT A GLANCE

As one of the World's largest software companies, SAP has implemented ProCast CDN throughout its enterprise for the distribution of learning content throughout its 120 regional offices.

In SAP's headquarter a ProCast CDN-NOC provides for centralized control of the globally implemented platform. Content creators in different regions (Americas, EMEA, APAC) use the same shared ProCast CDN platform and autonomously distribute contents.

Enabling efficient global content delivery, ProCast CDN has Enabled SAP to increase its competitive advantage.

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Scenario

SAP is one of the world's largest software vendors, with R&D, sales, and support offices in more than 100 locations around the globe. SAP continually needs to distribute large file packages to its internal organization spread around the world. The contents distributed are used for demo purposes, production, development, and education. File packages for pre-sales alone represent a data amount of 80 GB. Distributing files this large internally to thousands of laptops of pre-sales staff via the internal network was simply not possible due to the load on the central server and network.

SAP began looking for a solution to distribute copies that would solve this problem and automate distribution, rather than shipping hard disks.

Formerly, SAP distributed to its global offices hard drives that included the latest software release packaged for demo purposes. However, this option presented many problems, including:

- *The cost overhead of delivering hard drives to all offices and having to return the hard drives to a central location*
- *The management difficulties of relying on physical deliveries to ensure software versions were always maintained and up-to-date in all locations*
- *The security risk of losing information due to stolen media*

SAP sought also to distribute the disk images via HTTP or FTP but encountered additional problems:

- *The long transfer time to download a file meant a very high risk of failure due to disturbances during the download*
- *Downloads crossed the expensive international links several times to reach several destinations on other continents*
- *Interrupted transfers did not necessarily resume at the same point, requiring time-consuming restarts*
- *Most browsers were incapable of downloading such massive files via HTTP*

Solution

ProCast CDN is a distributed software platform enabling faster delivery of contents for today's most important content applications, including wide area file delivery, backup, synchronization of archives, and workflow acceleration.

SAP had already selected the ProCast CDN infrastructure for the delivery of SAP TV, SAP's business TV service for SAP employees around the world. SAP's internal software distribution team had been seeking a solution for some time when informed of SAP TV's delivery platform and the ProCast CDN wide area file delivery capabilities.

ProCast CDN enables the secure, reliable, and rapid distribution of any digital file or media, including large files, data transfers, and live and on-demand streaming media. From a central point of control, SAP's release managers can deliver the latest software versions to any of SAP's global locations, using SAP's existing internal network infrastructure.

■ CASE STUDY

The bandwidth reservation tools of ProCast CDN ensure that new versions and software updates arrive by the deadline set by the release manager. ProCast CDN automatically delivers each software update to the intended CDN Node, ProCast CDN's content distribution engine running at each branch office location.

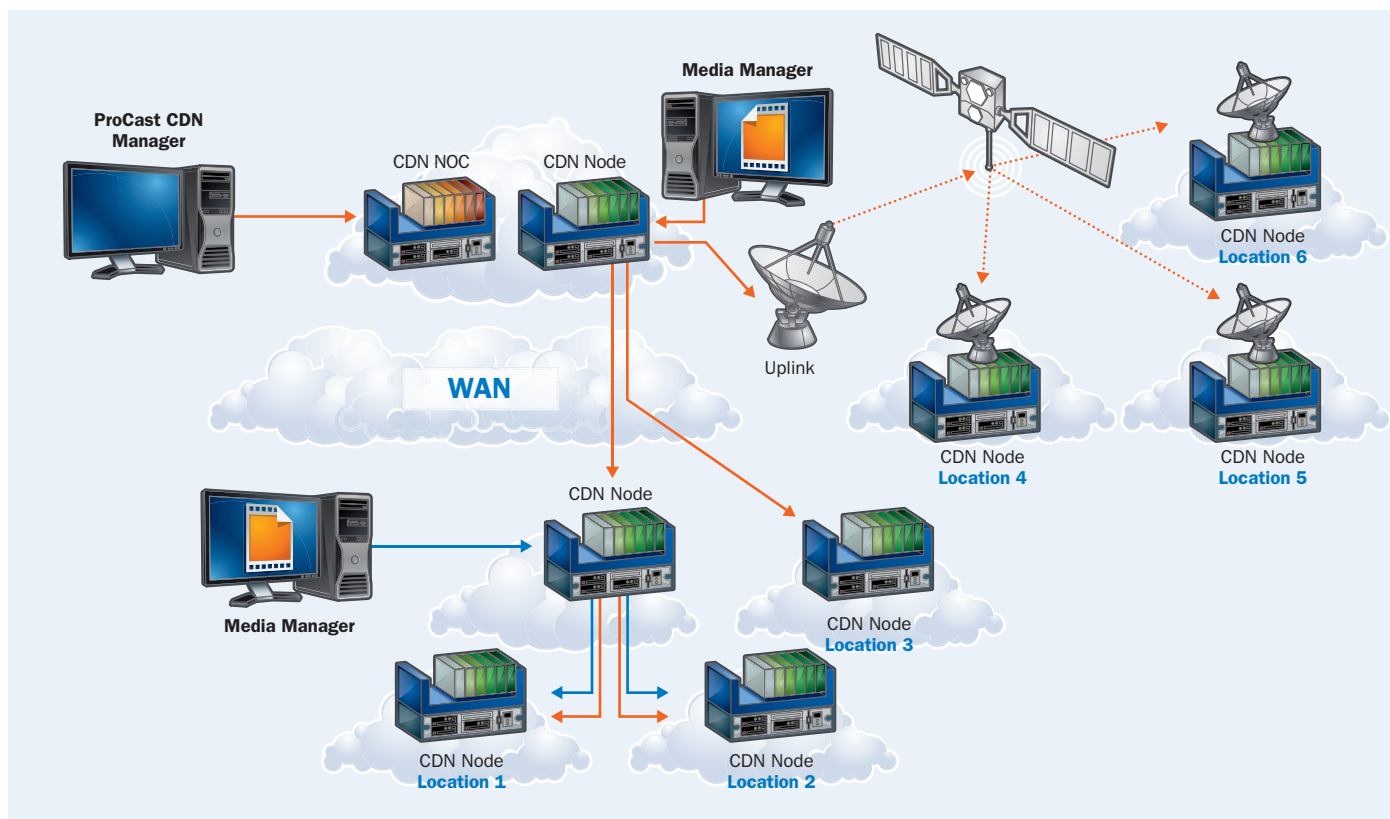
When users access content they go to the internal CDN portal running on the CDN NOC and select the content they want to get. Users are automatically redirected to the closest CDN Node and are served by the CDN Node in the high LAN bandwidth.

Benefits of the ProCast CDN Wide Area File Delivery Solution

The deciding factors for SAP in selecting ProCast CDN to implement wide area file delivery of SAP's software distribution were:

- *The ability to leverage SAP's existing investment in ProCast CDN to accomplish a second, highly critical function using SAP's existing ProCast CDN infrastructure by simply adding software modules at each CDN Node*
- *Access to a highly scalable and modular solution that was already fully integrated into SAP's global network*
- *Easy network management that ensure maximum reliability and scalability, updates and alerts all managed entirely centrally*
- *The ability for SAP's software release managers and SAP TV content managers to independently manage the distribution of their content autonomously from one another*
- *No cost of rollout, no cost of integration, and no cost of deployment within SAP – the extensibility of the ProCast CDN solution was fully leveraged*
- *Release of the congestion on the international links, since delivery of content to multiple destinations crosses every network link only once with the ProCast CDN solution*

How it works: ProCast CDN



 **OMNEON**[®]
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www.omneon.com

U.S. Headquarters:
1237 E. Arques Ave.
Sunnyvale, CA 94085
ph +1 866.861.5690
ph +1 408.585.5000
fx +1 408.585.5099

Europe:
5 Lindenwood
Chineham, Basingstoke
RG24 8QY United Kingdom
ph +44 1256.347.400
fx +44 1256.347.410

Japan:
Ginza 3-Chome Bldg. 8F
3-14-1 Ginza, Chuo-ku
Tokyo 104-0061 Japan
ph +81 03.5565.6735
fx +81 03.5565.6736

Asia/Pacific:
20 Loyang Crescent
Singapore 508984
ph +65 6548.0500
fx +65 6548.0504

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