

System Integration

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Case Study 5: Network Integration

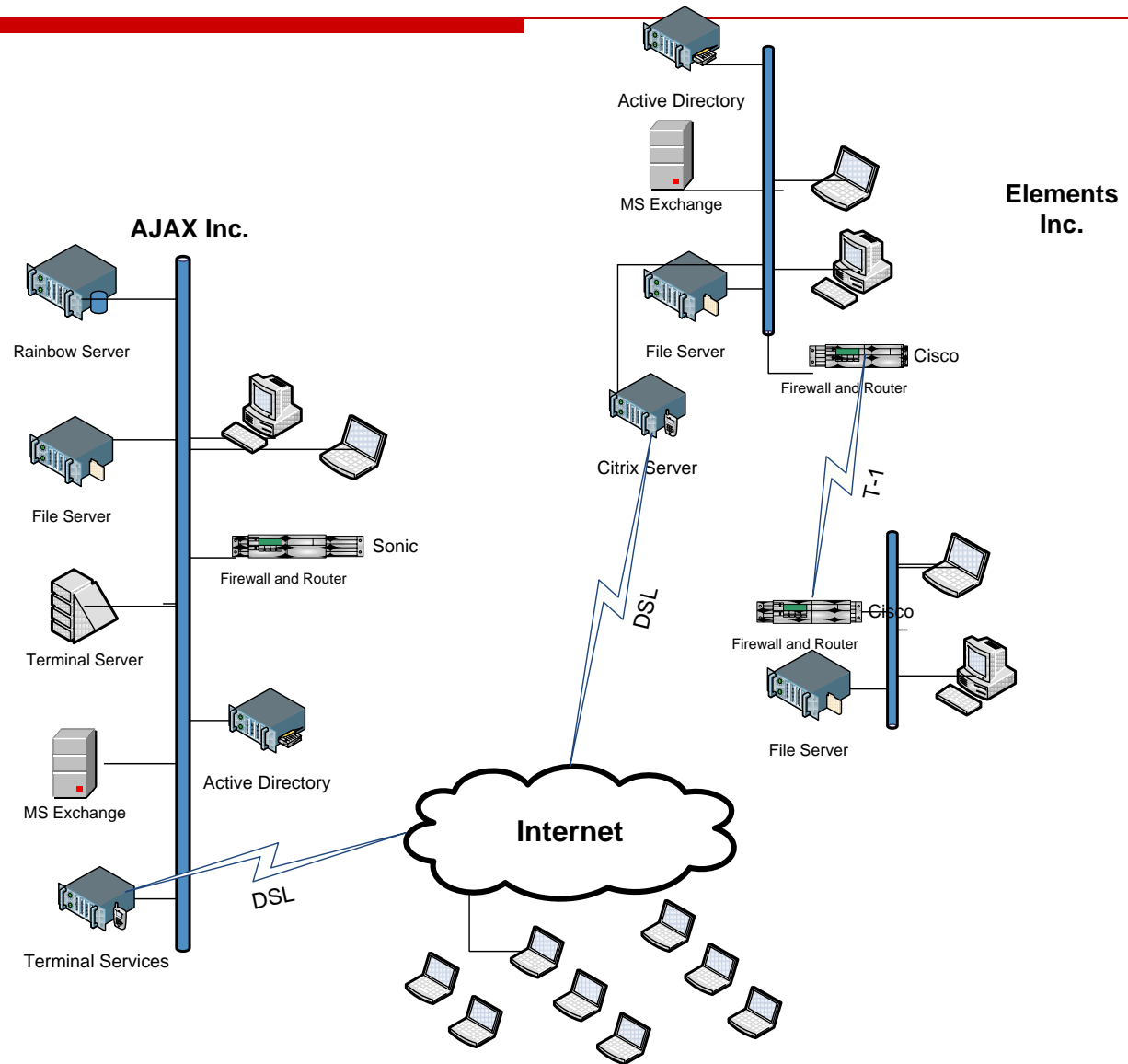
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AJAX Inc.

■ Background

- Ajax Inc. recently purchased a new company, which is now a subsidiary of Ajax Inc., called Elements Inc.
- Ajax Inc. has also recently purchased a new system, called Rainbow, which will replace the existing accounting system and add project management capabilities for all project managers
- Staff at Elements Inc. are using the legacy system through the Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP). The staff is able to only read data the Ajax staff has entered into the system.

Current Network



Rainbow

- Rainbow has a thin client that works well over Virtual Private Networks
- The main server for Rainbow is located at the AJAX company offices
- Although the accounting staff is primarily located at the main AJAX office, there are many users of the accounting system at most of the other company locations
- All project managers need to use the system
- The PM's use the system to find the status of their projects and to input invoices and receipts through scanners
- The Rainbow application stores all electronically scanned images which the PM's can attach to specific jobs and contracts

Current Business Processes

- Currently, the Elements Inc. personnel email or send through the mail all receipts, invoices, and other supporting documents to the Corporate headquarters
- When the new system is implemented, all the documents will come from the project management sites
- Project managers need to have scanners attached to their computers
- Project managers also need to be able to access other local resources, such as printers and hard drives

Problem

- AJAX users cannot access the Elements system, neither can Elements access the AJAX system
- The CITRIX system does not allow access to the user's local resources
- The two separate domains have different authentication systems
 - AJAX users require a user ID and password to access the system
 - Elements users require a smart fob technology to access their system
 - Users share information primarily through email messages and attachments

Project 5

- Develop an integrated system for AJAX
- Ensure that the system appears the same to all users
- Ensure that remote users can effectively access Rainbow. Users must be able to print, scan, and update the Rainbow system as needed
- Focus on keeping costs down, but make sure the Company can recover and continue to operate if a disaster occurs
- Present your plan to integrate the network and provide Rainbow users with the system resources to support successful implementation of Rainbow in AJAX

Deliverables

- AJAX's proposed integrated network presentation:
 - The presentation should address the specific requirements of Rainbow and how users will access the system
 - The presentation should identify how AJAX will continue to operate in the event that AJAX headquarters experiences a natural disaster
 - The presentation should identify new networks that must be established to support the fully integrated network

Deliverables Cont'd

- Ensure that your team addresses layer 2, layer 3 requirements and all applications that support the smooth integration of two different networks
- Make sure that you justify your integration decisions
- Update your journal to include lessons learned from your discussions and decisions that led to your final proposal