

**SMART
MOVES**

Commerce One's decision to discontinue the web hosting business of its acquisition I33 AppNet had an unfortunate side effect: a collocation facility suddenly bereft of servers and traffic. Yet the company continued to pay for three half-empty cages at the colo facility, two T1 lines, and more bandwidth than it could possibly use.

"They hadn't thought to minimize the resources," says TAOS consultant Geoff Grauer, who discovered the waste of space, physical and virtual. After conducting an audit of the current server load, he consolidated services, applications, and web sites on 25 servers, sparing 11 of them. "One of the key parts of the consolidation was to ensure that the remaining servers would be able to support the load without any decrease in performance or reliability," Geoff says.

Attempting to configure a consolidated architecture of cages, however, proved far more challenging than unplug 'n play. "The network topology at the colo was like a chain," Geoff explains. "To disconnect one cage, we'd lose connectivity in the other cages as well," meaning downtime for existing Commerce One clients.

A second Internet connection and Hot Swap Routing Protocol (HSRP) running on two routers was the literal workaround, enabling Geoff to move equipment without affecting the network. Implementation of his new space-efficient cage and rack design freed up two of the three cages without cramping anybody's style or pocketbook: the total cost savings gained by Commerce One because of Geoff Grauer's server and cage consolidation totals \$34,000 a month.

And that doesn't include the \$3,000 a month saved by the creation of a virtual private network — using equipment Geoff found in-house — between the collocation facility and the office, rendering two T1 lines entirely unnecessary. Although right now the VPN is a server-to-server-as-needed service rather than a dedicated one, it's a more than sufficient solution given the company's budgetary constraints.

"They're really trying not to spend money where they don't have to," Geoff explains, "and it was silly to spend money on what they no longer needed."

