



First National banks on greater savings and control with IP Communications solution

Company Profile

Founded in 1876, The First National Bank of Hutchinson is a community-owned bank that's serious about the need of its heartland customers in southwest Kansas. The bank, with five branch offices and 156 full-time equivalent employees, has total assets of more than \$400 million.

Situation

The First National Bank of Hutchinson has deep roots in Kansas. But the fact that it serves a small community is no excuse to scrimp on service. To keep pace with customer expectations, management re-examined the bank's technology infrastructure.

"Our Plexar phone system was aging and our provider wasn't supporting it well," says Greg Binns, the bank's Executive VP and CFO. "The big problem was that we knew there was better technology out there that could improve customer service and save money – and we wanted it." With 156 older phones, a switchboard that could not be easily repaired or expanded, and technology that was over the hill, the old system had to go.

Binns explains that the bank needed a solution that would provide greater control over communications than possible with a PBX system. "It had to work with our e-mail, be easy-to-use, and let us move phones around without waiting weeks to get them in place."

After researching available solutions and comparing ROI's, he decided on IP Communications solution was the best approach. However, he needed a partner who had the expertise to design and deliver it. He called SKT Business Communication Solutions, the regional leader in IP Communications systems.

Solution

Why SKT? "I worked with the sales rep before and knew she would deliver on her promises," explains Binns. "Plus, SKT has plenty of experience with IP Communications and they're the best people to help us transition to a new system." His decision was made even easier after a short

First National Bank's new IP Communications solution:

- Simplifies and accelerates administrative tasks
- Saves time and money through improved employee productivity
- Adds new functionality to all phones
- Improves communications with customers

trip to the SKT training room where he witnessed first hand how the proposed solution would perform in action.

SKT designed a solution that integrated voice mail and e-mail systems across locations using Cisco Unity Unified Messaging system. The easy-to-use system enables employees to better prioritize, manage, and respond to critical messages. So now, when a customer concern is handed off to the appropriate bank employee with an e-mail, he or she also has the customer's original voice mail along with it, which enables the bank staff to respond more effectively to customers.

The new solution also features Cisco CallManager and PC Attendant for faster and less expensive Moves, Adds, and Changes (MACs). All MACs are handled internally so there's no need to wait for a technician. "Changes that might drag out over weeks can now be made in minutes, so it improves productivity and saves money." he says.

The SKT-implemented IP Communications solution consists of:

- Integration of GroupWise and Unity voice mail applications
- Cisco CallManager
- Cisco IP Phones and PC Attendant
- Cisco IP Switches and Routers



Results

Employee surveys prove that the new solution is performing as promised. "Change is always threatening, but our staff has universally accepted the IPC approach. People love how simple it is to use," says Binns.

Now employees are automatically notified when they have new voice mails, they can instantly see who as called, and then download the *.wav file and listen to it from their mobile device without having to call in to the central voice mail system. Plus, employees can save the files for future reference. "We've just started using it, we can't quantify ROI yet, but it's already faster and easier to deal with voice mail through e-mail instead of phones."

This bank is realizing the dividends of an advanced IPC system. "We're still growing with it. But when the time comes for future technology needs, we won't hesitate to contact SKT."