



IATAC Success Story

Air Force Network Virtualization

<http://iac.dtic.mil/iatac/>

Customer:	The U.S. Air Force (USAF), Air Force Network Integration Center (AFNIC)
Challenge:	The USAF has multiple Active Directory and Exchange domains across its Major Commands (MAJCOMs). By operating a security model that does not integrate unified Active Directory or Exchange domains, security managers are constantly tasked with mitigating vulnerabilities and ensuring accuracy across the many disparate systems within the environment. This lack of integration creates a serious information security challenge. The AFNIC is addressing this challenge by standardizing hardware across the entire USAF and consolidating all networks into a single enterprise network, the Air Force Network (AFNet). Creating the AFNet is a massive undertaking and requires purchasing significant amounts of hardware.
Approach:	IATAC partnered with the Government and industry vendors to identify ways to reduce the amount of hardware assets required to host AFNet exchange services. After further analysis, IATAC recommended the use of virtualization. In addition to reducing assets for the AFNet server suites, virtualization allowed for a unified method of managing access control across AF resources. This also enhanced overall network security. IATAC then conducted analysis of the virtualization solution for implementation in three additional AF MAJCOMs and developed a plan to prepare these environments for migration into the AFNet.
Value:	The AFNIC/IATAC delivery of a fully virtualized solution for use in migrating Air Force MAJCOMs into the AFNet has reduced hardware costs in two of the commands by over 35% through resource consolidation, saving the USAF in excess of \$5M. We expect that in the next 18 months, virtualization shall create an immediate program savings to the Air Force of over \$11.1 million. The team's virtualization solution significantly reduces overall network hardware cost to the AF while enabling enhanced information security and network control.

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