

TECHNOLOGY

Cisco Brazil Chooses CommScope Intelligent Infrastructure Solution for Flexibility in the Network Physical Layer

SYSTIMAX® iPatch® and InstaPATCH® Solutions make it quicker and easier to demonstrate Cisco product performance at Latin America Datacenter Lab



Cisco turned to CommScope when it needed to demonstrate the performance of its latest equipment over 10G and 1G copper and fiber connections at its Rio de Janeiro Datacenter Lab in Brazil. SYSTIMAX Intelligent Infrastructure Solutions make it simple to change and record network and connectivity configurations, so customers can see how their systems will perform in operation.

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— Carlos Pereira, Cisco Datacenter
Consulting Systems Engineer – Latin America

Cisco Systems, Inc. is the world leader in networking for the Internet. Its hardware, software, and services set the industry standard, allowing organizations to grow productivity, improve customer satisfaction and strengthen competitive advantage.

The company's Datacenter Lab in Rio de Janeiro plays a key role in serving customers across Latin America. The facility is used to demonstrate and test state-of-the-art datacenter solutions using Cisco products, showing how they will work in the customer's network environment.

The Lab allows customers to see key Cisco solutions for the data center market, including unified computing, storage networking, data center switches and blade switches. The advanced Nexus 5000, 2000 and 1000V Series switches and Cisco Unified Computing System (UCS) are shown in action, along with the Catalyst family of switches including the 6500 and 4900 Series. Also featured are the Cisco MDS fiber channel switches and Director, included beside the storage array.

Since the physical layer is vital in achieving optimum network performance, choosing the right connectivity for the Lab was a high priority. To meet the requirement, the company turned to CommScope, a Cisco Developer Network Partner.

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The Lab's requirement included high performance copper and fiber infrastructure solutions with advanced management features. Lab employees need to connect and disconnect a wide range of equipment quickly, and network configurations must be managed efficiently. In addition, the Lab needed the option to monitor and manage the network physical layer from remote locations.

CommScope was able to meet all these needs with its SYSTIMAX Intelligent Infrastructure Solutions. The solution developed included iPatch intelligent copper and fiber patch panels, which are designed to give vision, knowledge and control over the network physical layer when used in conjunction with iPatch Rack Managers and iPatch System Manager Software.

"If we are going to set up equipment in many different configurations – some of which are quite complex – we need a clear view of our connectivity and an effective means of managing it," said Carlos Pereira. "That is exactly what iPatch is designed to provide."

Connections between the Lab's iPatch panels are completed via GigaSPEED® copper cabling, LazrSPEED® multimode fiber and TeraSPEED® single mode fiber. All these solutions have end-to-end performance that comfortably exceeds the relevant international standards. This assures Cisco that substandard connectivity will never compromise the performance of the solutions it is demonstrating.

The GigaSPEED XL Solution used at the Lab exceeds specifications of Category 6/Class E standards even under adverse conditions. The 10G GigaSPEED X10D Solution meets all the requirements of the Category 6a/Class EA standards over a full 100-meter, four-connector channel.

Installation work at the Lab, located in Barra da Tijuca, was handled by Added Computing & Telephony, a CommScope Authorized BusinessPartner based in Sao Paulo.

Throughout the project, the installation team worked closely with the customer and with Policom, the CommScope's SYSTIMAX distributor for Brazil. Policom, CommScope Authorized SYSTIMAX Distributor for Brazil. Policom provided all the panels, cables and other equipment from stock, ensuring immediate availability.

"The supply and installation team were dedicated to the task and responded quickly," said Carlos Pereira. "Where necessary, they put in extra time over weekends to finish as fast as possible."

Fiber installation was made easier by the SYSTIMAX InstaPATCH Plus Solution. This high-density, factory terminated, factory tested, modular solution makes it much easier for installers to connect system components together. It also simplifies design, configuration and ordering of fiber apparatus.

The finished infrastructure is now used to show customers from throughout the region how Cisco equipped networks will perform in their operations. During this process, the automated documentation update feature of the iPatch Solution is used to maintain logs of connectivity changes.

In addition, engineers and managers can provide advanced electronic guidance, via displays and audible alerts on the iPatch Rack Managers as well as LEDs on the iPatch panels, to help technicians as they change patch connections. This ensures the technicians have immediate access to information they need to connect equipment ranging from routers, switches, and storage devices to unified communications and unified computing solutions. As well as saving time, the iPatch advanced guidance system reduces the risk of connection errors.

"In this application, SYSTIMAX Intelligent Infrastructure has some particular advantages," said Ricardo Mattiello of CommScope in Brazil. "The high level of visibility and control it gives over physical layer infrastructure makes the Lab's operations more efficient and trouble-free. And its accurate, automated documentation of changes gives another benefit by maintaining an up to date record of end-to-end connectivity.

"In a network that has to be constantly changed, the assistance iPatch gives to technicians is a great time saver. It makes it much quicker and easier to show customers exactly how their new systems will perform over various connectivity configurations."



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