

EQUINIX CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

DUO+



GOVERNMENT

Government municipalities unite with DUO+ and leverage an Equinix hybrid cloud solution to obtain secure and effective collaboration

“We are using the Microsoft Azure Express Route and were looking for a partner that could interconnect with Microsoft. It is the Equinix interconnection that provided added value. I think it is a positive collaboration with a high level of knowledge. Equinix has everything arranged well: the security, the data center and the interconnection concept.”

Derk van der Woude, Lead Architect, InSpark

Executive overview

Due to the transfer of government tasks and a change of legislation in the Netherlands, government municipalities were burdened with increasingly more responsibilities. Since resources were not increasing, the solution was administrative collaboration. The municipalities of Uithoorn, Diemen and Ouder-Amstel joined forces with DUO+, creating a unique partnership to perform municipal tasks more efficiently. With the joint collaboration, DUO+ was on a mission to discover a hybrid cloud solution that helped promote growth and partnership among the municipalities.

Business challenge

Within the government municipalities, the users have been the primary focus. With a transition toward a more mobile working environment—such as working from home, a tablet or a phone—DUO+ wanted to evolve the traditional workplace. However, the main challenge was to harmonize more than 800 users in 600 workplaces, divided in three separate infrastructures among the municipalities. The goal was to implement a solution for the municipalities to remain close to its citizens, while continuing to provide optimal municipal services—without disruptions—to its local citizens.

Solution

From the beginning, the municipalities decided that the solution would be in the cloud. To help determine the appropriate cloud solution, DUO+ partnered with Wierda & Entius to guide the procurement and purchasing process, and InSpark to manage the architecture vision and implementation. Shortly thereafter, InSpark introduced Derk van der Woude, Lead Architect, for this advanced project.

During the selection process, Equinix was ranked as the best. “Equinix offers a combination of instant cloud access (Cloud Express) and on-premises—the proper place for a hybrid cloud strategy. That is important if you want to take advantage of the cloud’s efficiency and have complete control over sensitive data and specific applications,” explained Andre de Vet, Coordinator ICT-Services, DUO+.



About DUO+

History

Since 2016, DUO+ has been working as an independent, ambitious organization for the municipalities of Ouder-Amstel (population 13,000+ inhabitants), Diemen (population 27,000) and Uithoorn (population 29,000+), providing professional advice and implementation in the interest of local citizens and companies.

The collaboration

The DUO+ administrative collaboration offers the three municipalities the opportunity to achieve an efficient and more robust organization.

Customers

About 70,000 citizens and companies of the municipalities of Uithoorn, Diemen and Ouder-Amstel.

Headquarters

Ouderkerk aan de Amstel
Duoplus.nl



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WHERE OPPORTUNITY CONNECTS

[Equinix.com](https://www.equinix.com)



The starting point for the new architecture was to gain a mobile first, app-driven workplace, enabling device connectivity anytime, anyplace. “Since the law requires personal data to remain in the Netherlands, we selected a hybrid cloud solution with colocation at Equinix data centers in Amsterdam,” van der Woude reported.

With a hybrid cloud solution, parts of the application were migrated to the cloud and another section continued to run on its own servers situated within an Equinix International Business Exchange™ (IBX®) data center. “With this project, DUO+ is really at the forefront,” explains van der Woude. “This is proven technology. With the cloud-first, SaaS-first principle, you’re relieving your surroundings from daily management activities.”

Efficient workplace management takes place from one central location. With Microsoft System Center, all devices are automatically equipped with the Windows operating system, apps and settings. The mobile devices are secured through Microsoft Intune and provided with encryption in connection with the Data Protection Act and a required PIN code to unlock the device. “The business case also shows that the cloud is cheaper. You can scale up or down and switch faster with changes in your surroundings.” van der Woude explained.

Business results

By leveraging an Interconnection Oriented Architecture™ (IOA™) strategy deployed on Platform Equinix™, DUO+ re-architected its infrastructure for a digital edge—closest to applications and users. The transformation optimized multicloud connectivity, enhanced security and reliability, and boosted performance.

De Vet reports, “The ease of use is also guaranteed for us as an information and communications technology department. The number of times we have to work on the server is minimal. And if we have to be at Equinix, we are welcome.” In addition, the solution:

- Established a new joint architecture, reducing costs with fewer data centers
- Gained full control over sensitive data with a secluded place in the hybrid cloud
- Empowered employees with 24x7 access to secure, convenient data and apps
- Improved data mobility with optimized data limits

The gold in the hybrid cloud

De Vet explained that working from home is now easy with applications that are easy and safe to access. The “work from home” service is Microsoft Remote Data Service (RDS) which also runs at Equinix.

DUO+ users also have a substantial amount of data storage. Each user has a 50GB mailbox and a 5 terabyte OneDrive. “The beauty of this project is that we collectively take maximum advantage of the latest technology and bring it closer to the user. With this project, DUO+ is really taking the lead,” explains de Vet.

Taking the lead

The sensitive data runs on a private cloud through Microsoft Hyper-V, and the backup is well-arranged with Microsoft Azure Backup. “We entrust the gold (the data) of the municipality to Equinix,” says de Vet. “Sensitive data, such as the social domain and civil affairs, has its own place in this hybrid cloud, in which we are in control. In addition, it is important that our people have access to the data at any time, in a safe manner, with high availability.”

About Equinix

Equinix, Inc. (Nasdaq: EQIX) connects the world’s leading businesses to their customers, employees and partners inside the most interconnected data centers. In 44 markets across five continents, Equinix is where companies come together to realize new opportunities and accelerate their business, IT and cloud strategies. In a digital economy where enterprise business models are increasingly interdependent, interconnection is essential to success. Equinix operates the only global interconnection platform, sparking new opportunities that are only possible when companies come together.

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About the partners

• DUO+ (Duoplus.nl)

• Wierda & Entius (Weadvies.nl) guided the procurement and purchasing process

• InSpark (InSpark.nl) responsible for the architecture vision and implementation

• Equinix (Equinix.nl) selected as a government data center in the Netherlands