

Local Community Bank Modernizing its Infrastructure to Support a Major Bank Merger



An Ohio-based community bank that opened its doors in 1899 and, as of our 2022 introduction had 13 full services branches and approximately \$606 million in deposits. They engaged Ashton as they were preparing for a merger that required significant improvements to its technology environment.

By Ashton Solutions



Ashton Solutions, based in Cleveland, Ohio, brings efficiency and peace of mind to IT and helps clients leverage technology for lasting business results. Find out more at ashtonsolutions.com.

The Challenge

To prepare for an upcoming merger, the 120-year-old financial institution's network, switching, and security infrastructure needed to be modernized and aligned with the expectations of a highly regulated partner.

In addition to the technical challenges, the project required coordination within a regulatory environment where security, reliability, risk management, and adherence to banking regulatory standards were critical considerations.

The Solution

Ashton Solutions initially partnered with the bank and their internal IT team in 2022 on what became a four-year transformation initiative designed to strengthen and modernize the bank's technology foundation.

Over the course of the engagement, Ashton rearchitected the bank's network infrastructure, switching environment, and security framework to help meet regulatory expectations and support the bank's merger objectives. The work focused on creating a scalable, secure, and well-managed IT environment capable of supporting future growth (as well as the merger) while reducing operational and compliance risk.

As part of the security modernization effort, Ashton replaced single firewalls in five branch locations with redundant configurations (two devices in each branch) creating a standardized security platform across the entire branch network. This improved visibility, simplified management, and helped establish consistent security controls throughout the organization.

“Ashton is by far my favorite vendor to work with. Your team started with me when I was an intern and as I’ve advanced in my career over five years, I’ve always been able to rely heavily on Ashton’s support.” -Client Internal Resource

Results

- Modernized network and switching infrastructure
- Strengthened security posture
- Standardized firewall and security management across all branch locations
- Improved alignment with banking and regulatory requirements
- Reduced technology risk.
- Created a more stable foundation for future growth and integration efforts

Client Impact

By investing in a long-term technology transformation, the community bank was able to move forward with greater confidence that its infrastructure could support the operational, security, and regulatory demands associated with a bank merger. The modernized and standardized environment provided a stronger foundation for ongoing compliance, risk management, and future growth.



Let's discuss your unique needs and how Ashton Solutions can help create value. Contact us at 216.397.4080 or sales@ashtonsolutions.com



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