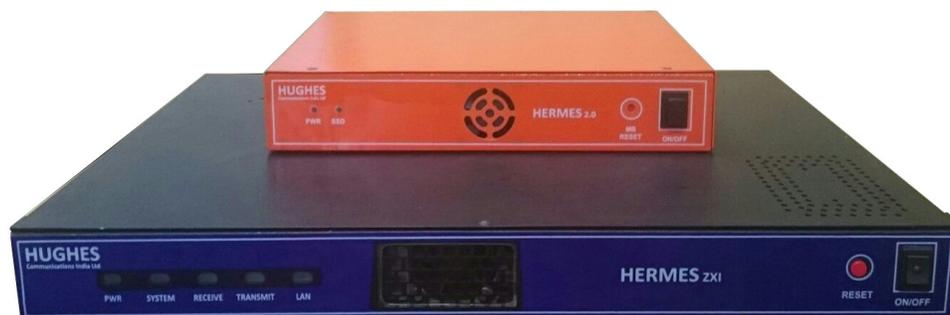


Hermes: A Multifunctional Branch Server

Hermes, a multifunctional branch server platform and an Network Function Virtualization (NFV) device is designed and manufactured in India by Hughes Communications India Ltd., Hermes acts as a branch server whose base function is to enable the customer to port multiple applications onto Hermes without having to invest in multiple hardware devices. This brings down the hardware foot print of the branch. Hermes also helps to fight the hardware obsolescence and helps you to maximize Return on Your Existing Infrastructure. Any application that supports virtualization can be ported onto Hermes. Technology has taken over most of the processes in every field to enhance performance and output. That is the new face of progress. Companies, corporate and organizations, are looking for integrated one-point solutions and Hermes goes a long way in helping to meet this objective.

Hughes has been closely associated with the Indian banking industry for over 24 years now and has been at the forefront of providing several technological firsts in the field of satellite communications. Currently, HCIL services over 100,000 locations on VSATs with over 40,000 banks branches and over 35,000 ATMs on VSATs, making it the largest and the most valuable satellite service provider in India. Today, a key focus for the banks is to expand their branch footprint, pan India, across urban, semi-urban, and rural regions through various categories of urban, micro, and ultra-small branches. This expansion drive necessitates the requirement for the remote branch sites to be capable of accessing core banking solution and numerous other applications with a uniform high performance and end user experience,

across all categories of bank branches, irrespective of the media of connectivity whether it is a terrestrial (leased line/MPLS/RF) link or a VSAT link. The current VSATs deployed do give the unique advantages of high availability, deployment capability pan India, fast rollout speeds, and cost effectiveness as compared to terrestrial MPLS networks; however, with the increase in the usage pattern due to more applications getting added, higher version of core banking solutions being implemented, access to bank's intranet becoming more prevalent, the current VSATs and low speed MPLS links are being challenged for enhancing bandwidths and providing user experience similar to that of branches with high terrestrial bandwidth. To address these challenge and to continue to give the bank branches all the advantages that are inherent to VSATs, as well as give the branch users a similar experience to that of high-speed leased line/MPLS connectivity, Hughes has developed high performance VSAT platform—Hermes. The advantages of Hermes are relevant to other enterprise branches also where various branded and home grown business applications are used in addition to email, intranet, etc., and can get the same benefits as illustrated above. Hermes is media agnostic as this can be used in a branch with any connectivity media—be it MPLS, RF, or VSAT. This makes Hermes a universal branch server platform which has relevance in all enterprise banches. Hermes has been successfully deployed by banks in India using various CBS solutions like Finacle ver. 10, iFlex, profile etc. The excellent feedback from the users has vindicated our claims and belief that Hermes enhances the productivity and efficiency of an enterprise branch with the same bandwidth resources.



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Some of the functionalities of Hermes: acceleration and Wide Area Network (WAN) optimization at the branch. Be it a bank or enterprise branch, will be able to do more with the same bandwidth resource (irrespective of the media, whether it is MPLS, satellite, or RF) at the branch while drastically enhances the user experience and contributes substantially in saving the operational expense towards bandwidth resources.

- **Bank branch:** Helps to accelerate various applications including all Core Banking Solutions (Finacle 10, Finacle 7, Profile, Flex Cube, etc.) and other common branch applications like email, HTTP, intranet, banking product applications, and any future applications.
- **Enterprise branch:** Helps to accelerate various applications including all ERPs and other common branch applications like email, HTTP, intranet etc. and any future business applications. Hermes provides highly enhanced user experience on any media and on VSAT if it provides an experience to the user akin to working on a high-speed leased line.
- **E-Learning:** Today video-based real-time distance education is becoming a norm to increase productivity and to bring in uniformity in learning. Today one uses a PC, a satellite modem (as satellite is the most efficient and commercially viable medium for a one-to-many mode of delivery), and audio devices. With Hermes, all this can be integrated into one box with the Learning Management Software (LMS) ported onto Hermes. This reduces the hardware footprint of the E-Learning classroom and enhances manageability.
- **Some other applications of Hermes:**
 - A virtual router can be ported on to Hermes instead of a physical router at the branch
 - It can be used to store contents (e.g.: training content) at the branch for easy access. This content can be updated centrally, through the existing WAN during off peak hours
 - Any customer-specific business application that supports optimization

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