Case Study: Research Data Consolidation for Improved Storage Efficiency and Public Cloud Integration

Client: Software-as-a-Service Company

SUMMARY
The IT department of this world renowned university supports the technology needs of the faculty, students, and staff across multiple colleges within the university system. In this constantly changing environment it is essential to maintain security and flexibility to maximize the value of the data resources of the university. The mission of the our client’s IT organization is to make it easier for faculty, students, and staff to teach, research, learn, and work through the effective use of information technology.

Our unified storage platform solution allows the university IT organization to provide an efficient framework for enhancing their private cloud offerings while also easily integrating with emerging public cloud offerings. It also satisfies the IT organization's goal to provide improved provisioning and authentication support for the university which can only be facilitated with this improved storage environment.

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<th>Industry</th>
<th>Higher Education</th>
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<td>Client</td>
<td>A university-wide IT support organization providing technology services to multiple colleges throughout the university system</td>
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<td>Problem</td>
<td>The existing storage environment at the university consisted of multiple vendors and multiple products. The skills required to maintain the environment were continuing to expand accentuating the need to consolidate storage to a fewer set of vendors and platforms. Due to the nature of the university research it was essential to minimize any outages both planned and unplanned.</td>
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<td>Solution</td>
<td>CTI consolidated multiple storage environments into a common storage delivery platform with NetApp’s Clustered Data ONTAP operating environment. The migration was complicated by the limited maintenance window for several of the university applications. A phased approach was implemented each phase concentrating on a group of applications and all of their associated storage environments. A detailed set of procedures and time frames were determined from the migration simulation. During the migration simulation a detailed test plan was executed including, data validation, access and security validation, data protection validation, operations and DR failover validation to insure the new storage architecture would meet all of the requirements. Final migrations were successfully performed for each phase and application group without incident.</td>
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Benefits

With the new storage infrastructure the university has the ability to perform non-disruptive operations on the new storage environment. Using the multi-tenancy capability of the NetApp architecture, data can easily be secured from unauthorized access. Data protected through replication as well as traditional enterprise backup enabled faster data recovery. The ability to seamlessly move data from different tiers of storage as required has improved the efficacy of the environment. By creating a common storage platform, the time required for routine operations support were reduced allowing staff to concentrate on more strategic tasks.

Technologies

CTI Professional Services
NetApp Storage
NetApp Clustered Data ONTAP

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