

Hewlett Packard Enterprise



Objective

Simplify remote office operations;
optimize data backup and recovery;
launch ERP initiative

Approach

Introduced to HPE SimpliVity by local IT partner, Works Computing. Successful pilot lead to decommissioning of legacy remote office systems

IT Matters

- Freed up IT staff to focus on strategic business initiatives
- Improved overall application performance by 20% or more
- Enabled extremely high data efficiency as great as 896:1
- Reduced physical storage consumption by 63%
- Backup and restore completed in seconds compared to hours

Business Matters

- Centralized and unified remote office operations
- Improved business continuity and disaster recovery across geographies

Streamlined remote office operations with HPE SimpliVity

Coughlan Companies increases application performance by 20%



Challenge

Remote office branch office, data protection and disaster recovery

Based in Mankato, Minnesota, Coughlan Companies serves as a holding company for Capstone, a publisher of children's books, and Jordan Sands, an industrial mining and processing company.

Coughlan Companies has a multinational presence with a central data center in Minnesota and four offices throughout the U.S. and the U.K. The company relied on a mix of legacy equipment across its different sites, including HPE ProLiant servers with direct-attached storage, network-attached storage from NetApp, and Dell EqualLogic and XioTech SAN gear.

The IT team manages the entire multinational operation from Minnesota, with little or no IT support at the remote locations. Managing the disjointed IT environment was a manually intensive, time-consuming endeavor involving a number of distinct administrative systems.

Worse still, a full remote system backup or restore could take days using the company's legacy data protection and recovery tools. The company planned to refresh and standardize its remote office infrastructure to eliminate operations expense and complexity, improve performance and mitigate risks. A key objective was to reduce or eliminate legacy technology silos to improve IT staff efficiency.

Solution

Cloud economics with enterprise protection

Brett Hoerner, manager of Infrastructure and Support Services for Coughlan Companies, was introduced to HPE SimpliVity by Works Computing, a local IT data center solutions provider. After a successful pilot, Hoerner has completely decommissioned the legacy remote office systems, standardizing on HPE SimpliVity company-wide. "HPE SimpliVity works as advertised," says Hoerner.

Customer at a glance

Hyperconverged Solutions

HPE SimpliVity

“The solution is extremely easy to use and manage, and the company’s customer support is outstanding. Performance, including inline deduplication and compression, is exceptional. And the built-in DR and flexible backup policies are fantastic,” says Hoerner.

In addition to the remote office branch office (ROBO) project, Coughlan was reviewing its core ERP architecture and strategy. The company explored a broad set of options, including in-house and public hosted solutions. Coughlan brought in an independent consultant for analysis and decided to implement ERP on HPE SimpliVity. The decision was based on the success of the previous ROBO project as well as financial considerations.

“Coughlan is currently executing a company-wide Microsoft Dynamics AX ERP implementation on HPE SimpliVity. The in-house deployment model offered significant TCO and performance advantages over alternative approaches, including SaaS and IaaS-based solutions. With HPE SimpliVity, Coughlan enjoys the best of both worlds: cloud economics with enterprise protection, performance, data efficiency and global unified management.

Going forward, Hoerner plans to leverage HPE SimpliVity for a next-generation Application as a Service initiative that will enable internal customers to turn-up VMs and provision IT services on-demand.

Benefit

IT infrastructure confidence skyrockets

HPE SimpliVity eliminates remote office operation’s expense and complexity by consolidating a variety of IT functions onto virtualized commodity x86 hardware, with unified management. Coughlan replaced multiple servers and storage systems at each remote site with a single 2U HPE SimpliVity system.

The central operations team manages the enterprise-wide implementation in a uniform manner using VMware® vCenter™.

The HPE SimpliVity solution’s innovative architecture with real-time deduplication, compression and optimization technologies delivers breakthrough performance and data efficiency. The highly scalable solution improves performance while containing storage costs and radically improves data backup and recovery operations across geographies. With HPE SimpliVity, Coughlan has realized overall application performance gains of 20% or more, including with the critical Microsoft Dynamics AX ERP application, and achieved 63% reduction in physical storage consumption. Better still, remote system backups and restorations can now be completed in minutes instead of hours or days. “The effective throughput of our UK link is only about 1Mbps,” says Hoerner. “But with the HPE SimpliVity data efficiencies we can back up 2.3 TB of data from the UK to Chicago in a matter of seconds.” Coughlan now achieves superior data availability SLAs, including the option for RPOs within one hour for all VMs and 90-day retention for hourly backups.

Cloning VMs for tasks like Dev/Test/UAT and DevOps is incredibly fast. Coughlan has one ~300GB SQL Server VM that took several days to backup using VMware vSphere® Data Protection™, and it took two to four hours to clone using traditional infrastructure. With HPE SimpliVity, the rapid clone of the ~300GB VM takes a mere 53 seconds.

Jeff Kletschka, senior network administrator at Coughlan, comments, “Our confidence in our infrastructure has skyrocketed with HPE SimpliVity across all dimensions: performance, management and disaster recovery.”

Learn more at
hpe.com/info/simplivity



Sign up for updates