

GYMBOREE

San Francisco-based Gymboree Corporation operates a chain of over 1,200 specialty retail stores of children's apparel in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Canada.

The Challenges: Disparate Storage Solutions Increase Operating Costs, Reduce Functionality

Jessie LaCome is the Windows and virtualization IT lead for The Gymboree Corporation. He is responsible for managing the company's virtualization, network, storage, and compute infrastructure. "We were relying on a mix of storage solutions from NetApp, Hitachi, and EMC," he said. "With all the disparate systems, we couldn't properly utilize any of the base functionality of VMware. We were unable to perform automatic load balancing, and we couldn't vMotion a VM from one physical host to another based on how the infrastructure was configured."

Other IT challenges included IOPS spikes and performance problems with the company's key applications. "All of our POS infrastructure, human resources applications, and practically every user interface infrastructure were utilizing VMware at some level,"

LaCome explained. "In total, we have about 1,000 end users, and a large number of them were complaining about poor application performance issues. We also had a lot of backup and snapshot problems, and huge connectivity issues."

The Solution: Tintri VMstore T5040

Gymboree started the search for a new storage platform in 2016. "We looked at solutions from Pure, EMC, NetApp, Nimble, and Tintri," LaCome shared. "Several things stood out about VMstore, including its ease of installation, streamlined management with a single-pane view of all VMs, and the simplicity of having a single data store. We were blown away by VMstore's high performance, ease-of-use, and the ability to effortlessly add a replication element to my environment."

Gymboree purchased its first VMstore system in 2016. Tintri also provided Gymboree with a loaner system to assist with Gymboree's upcoming data center migration project. "It only took 30-45 minutes to deploy the VMstore systems once we got the networking in place," noted LaCome. "Deployment would have taken several days with EMC, and would have required the expertise of their professional services organization. Gymboree's POS, HR, application development environment, and all of our core applications are now running on VMstore, and they are also using Tintri snapshots and replication for business continuity."

The Results: Reduced Management Time, Higher Performance

"VMstore's performance is stellar," said LaCome. "After moving to VMstore, we have eliminated all of our IOPS problems, and our end users are finally happy with the performance of their virtual machines. We also upgraded from 1GB to 10GB networking for the ESX hosts, enabling us to get the best bang for our buck."

"The EMC and NetApp systems took a massive amount of administration time," noted LaCome. "I was spending ten to twelve hours each week just managing those systems. With VMstore, our storage management overhead has gone to zero. The platform is so easy to use that our virtualization admins have taken control of the storage environment. As a result, we don't need storage specialists for that infrastructure anymore."

"Our EMC systems filled one and a half racks," LaCome reported. "For the same amount of storage capacity, VMstore only fills three rack units. I can fit my entire data center—including all of our Cisco UCS infrastructure and the VMstore — into a single rack now."

Challenges

- Disparate storage solutions increase operating costs and management overhead
- Insufficient functionality across platforms
- Storage over-provisioning requires a large datacenter footprint

Solution

- Tintri VMstore T5040

Results

- Eliminated ten to twelve hours per week of storage administration overhead
- Improved virtual machine performance
- Reduced datacenter footprint from 63RU to 4RU

**Tintri**
Intelligent Infrastructure

“Tintri Support has been phenomenal,” LaCome shared. “We also love the proactive support alerts and the preemptive actions taken by Tintri Global Center. That level of support is definitely something we were lacking with our previous infrastructure management solutions.”

“Tintri has enabled us to migrate from our disparate physical storage systems to a much more powerful and flexible virtualized platform,” concluded LaCome. “We just purchased a second VMstore in order to create a data center replication solution, and we were able to install that system in less than an hour. VMstore is the solution we’ve been waiting for!”

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Jessie LaCome, Senior Lead Engineer for Windows and Virtualization, Gymboree Corporation

Experience Different! For more information on how Tintri VMstore can turbo-charge your business success through a simple, Intelligent Infrastructure, visit tintri.com/vmstore.