CASE STUDY

Tintri VMstore™ Delivers a New Experience for Municipality of Stellenbosch

VMstore

STELLENBOSCH
MUNISIPALITEIT • UMASIPALA • MUNICIPALITY

Stellenbosch Municipality provides services to a population of 3.8 million people across an area of around 900 km^2. It covers a number of towns and hamlets, including Stellenbosch, the second oldest town in South Africa, which dates back to 1679 and has a rich heritage in wine production. It is home to the renowned University of Stellenbosch and has a strong business sector. The municipality is home to a disproportionately high number of corporate CEOs and the top ten richest individuals in South Africa reside in Stellenbosch. The municipality employs 1,200 permanent and contract employees to fulfil its duties, including providing water, sanitation, and refuse services to the local public.

The Challenge: Management, Complexity, and Poor Scalability

The municipality's storage environment was struggling to keep pace with the demands of its systems, 90% of which are virtualized, and users were complaining of latency issues that were leading to delays. In addition, the system was unwieldy, complex, difficult to maintain, and had issues with scalability. Trying to add more space required taking the entire storage system offline. Undertaking backups was a serious issue and was affecting the municipality's wider performance.

Elvino Williams, ICT Senior Technician Third Party Systems for Stellenbosch Municipality, described the process as long and painful. "We were running out of backup window and it became a real challenge to provide an efficient service to the municipality".

The Solution: Tintri VMstore

With the EMC system coming to the end of its contract and concerns over how easy it would be to upgrade, Williams began to look at alternatives. In addition to EMC, the municipality considered Simplivity and VMstore. For a number of reasons, including ease of management, it opted for VMstore. "We have 2,000 personnel but only half of them will use IT. Easy management was key and VMstore provided this," Williams said.

After a successful proof-of-concept, the municipality opted for VMstore. The implementation was simple and fast, and Williams was particularly impressed with the simplified management and VM-level visibility. He noted, "There is no need to provision the disk when you need more storage. And you also don't have to move the virtual machine to a faster disk. VMstore is intelligent enough to see what is on the virtual machine and move it to the appropriate disk without having to manually do it."

He added: "The cherry on top was that the VMstore system would do some thinking for us and have some level of intelligence on its own. Previously we had to operate in LUNS and arrays and everything was difficult to manage."

In addition, VMstore also delivers enhanced replication and business continuity. The backup window is much shorter and machines can be taken offline and brought back online much faster.

The Results: Simplified Management, Improved Reliability, Optimized for a Virtual Environment

VMstore has done away with the complexity associated with LUNs and arrays that dogged the previous system. "Everything was difficult to manage," Williams said. "Simplified management was key for us. The reliability of the VMstore system is so strong that there has been no reason to contact support since it was installed. It is easy to use, maintain and run."

Challenge

- Existing EMC storage system was complex to manage and maintain
- Poor scalability
- Poor performance for the virtualized environment

Solution

- Tintri VMstore

Results

- Reduced storage management to almost zero
- Improved confidence and belief in the performance of the storage environment
- Enables the municipality to deliver a better service to users
- Faster and more flexible management and creation of virtual machines

Tintri
Intelligent Infrastructure

VMstore enables visibility at the VM level. Because it is optimized for virtualized environments, it delivers significant advantages and better performance compared to the previous storage system. Moving resources is simple and automated—there is little, if any, requirement for manual intervention.

The municipality is using VMstore for its Disaster Recovery (DR) site. "Replication was an issue with EMC as it was slow, and we would need to call people out to help us move data to the production site. VMstore cloning makes this easier," Williams remarks. "The backup window has been reduced from as much as twelve hours to two or three. VMstore's backup software enables a machine taken offline to be back online within two or three minutes.

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