

CASE STUDY

Switch from HCI to Tintri VMstore™ and Cisco UCS Results in a Different Experience

VMstore



Baxalta is a leading global biopharmaceutical company based in Bannockburn, Illinois. Baxalta was formed through a spin-off from healthcare giant Baxter International in July 2015. Baxalta was acquired by Shire Plc in January of 2016, which was then acquired by Takeda in January of 2019. Takeda is a leading global biotechnology company focused on serving people with rare diseases and other highly specialized conditions in more than 100 countries.

The Challenge: Achieving a Rapid and Cost-Effective Infrastructure Migration

Once the split was finalized, Baxalta needed to vacate Baxter's data centers as quickly as possible to avoid paying millions of dollars for the continued use of Baxter's IT infrastructure. Baxalta had to find an IT solution that could be deployed rapidly. After a review of their infrastructure options, Baxalta chose Tintri VMstore due to its ease of deployment and management. "Our previous infrastructure consisted of a mix of storage solutions, including IBM storage, EMC, and NetApp systems," explained Mike Baker, Data Center Architect. "It used to take over a month to get those storage systems off the ground and deployed, even before we started migrating workloads over to a new environment. We were able to fully deploy VMstore and the Cisco UCS servers, and have VMware fully installed with applications running at our new data centers in less than a week, with complete confidence that everything was set up correctly."

After being spun off by Baxter in 2015, the company faced another migration challenge. Shire had already standardized on hyperconverged for all its data centers in the United States. In addition to the US deployment, the pharmaceutical company had already made plans to double its hyperconverged footprint, building a second IT environment using the same hyperconverged systems in its European data center.

Baxalta was now faced with an additional infrastructure integration challenge. They had to decide whether to continue expanding their very successful Tintri VMstore and Cisco UCS deployment, or switch over to Shire's then corporate-standard hyperconverged platform. As the IT teams worked together to develop the technology roadmap, discussions centered on the performance issues Shire was experiencing with its hyperconverged infrastructure. "It was always difficult to manage our databases with hyperconverged," shared Baker. "We had to split our database servers into lots of smaller disks, and then tie them back together just to get the performance we needed out of those databases. It was a very inefficient and time-consuming process."

The Solution: Tintri VMstore and Cisco UCS

Baxalta's IT team had already proven how quickly they could deploy the VMstore and Cisco UCS pods after the Baxter spinoff, and how consistently they performed in their new environment. So instead of going forward with the planned hyperconverged purchase, Baxalta convinced Shire to standardize on VMstore systems and Cisco UCS servers. Shire was able to purchase all the Tintri and Cisco infrastructure they needed for both the US and Europe data centers for the same budget they had set aside for buying just the additional hyperconverged systems for the European expansion project.

In addition to the much faster deployments, Baxalta was also impressed by VMstore's features. "VMstore's autonomous QoS was a big selling point for us," Baker noted. "VMstore ensures that all of our applications perform predictably as we scale. We were also amazed at the VM-level visibility we get with Tintri Global Center, enabling us to pinpoint exactly what's going on with any individual application at any point in time."

Challenges

- Need to quickly vacate data centers and migrate to new storage solutions
- Need to integrate disparate databases and storage silos post acquisition
- Previous mix of storage solutions, required lengthy deployment times with astronomical costs.

Solution

- Tintri VMstore and Cisco UCS servers
- Tintri Global Center
- Cisco UCS Director with Tintri VMstore plug-in

Results

- Ability to centrally manage compute, network, and storage
- See performance level of every application across the entire infrastructure
- Since Tintri and Cisco UCS can be scaled independently, the data center can grow incrementally as needed.
- Shire was able to terminate managed services contracts and significantly reduce management costs.

The Results: Reduced Administrative Effort and a Scalable Architecture

"We also invested in Cisco UCS Director. With VMstore's plug-in to UCS Director, we are now able to manage compute, network, and storage from one central location—and see the performance of every application across our entire infrastructure," noted Baker. Previously, Shire had to depend on managed services to maintain its infrastructure. And since it took more than one month to stand up a new environment, those services contracts were substantial. "With VMstore and Cisco UCS we were able to terminate our managed services contracts—now it takes just one person a quarter of the time to manage a footprint that spans multiple data centers. Growing our footprint without adding management burden is a requirement for our enterprise cloud."

The move to Tintri VMstore and Cisco UCS also resolved Shire's concerns about scaling their hyperconverged footprint. "With our hyperconverged infrastructure, we had to scale compute and storage together, even when we only needed more of one resource and not the other—resulting in excess cost. Since VMstore and Cisco UCS can be scaled independently, we no longer have to buy everything up front," said Baker. "We can grow incrementally as needed and deploy our new VMstore and Cisco UCS architecture in small and medium-sized pods. When we need more compute, we just put in more UCS blades. If we need more storage, we can add more VMstore systems. Together, Tintri and Cisco are providing us with all of the flexibility and agility of an enterprise cloud in our on-premises infrastructure."

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Mike Baker, Data Center Architect

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