

CASE STUDY

European Investment Bank Selects Tintri VMstore™ for New Virtualized Test and Development Environment

VMstore



European Investment Bank (EIB) is the European Union's long-term lending institution. Established in 1958 under the Treaty of Rome, EIB is a "policy-driven bank" whose shareholders are the member states of the EU. The EIB uses its financing operations to bring about European integration and social cohesion. As the largest multilateral borrower and lender by volume, EIB provides financial expertise for sound and sustainable investment projects which contribute to

furthering EU policy objectives. More than 90% of the bank's activities are focused on Europe, but it also supports the EU's external and development policies.

The Challenges: Standard Infrastructure Is Ill-Equipped to Support Virtualization

Rujoiu Razvan is the head of the Infrastructure Services Unit at the EIB. Razvan and his group of IT professionals manage all of the bank's storage, backup and recovery, operating systems (Linux and Solaris), virtualization, and database environments. EIB had been using EMC VNX storage for its production environments and Sun StorageTek devices for testing and development.

"We made the decision to launch our enterprise-wide virtualization project with our test and dev systems," Razvan explained. "That physical environment was running on Sun StorageTek appliances. But the StorageTek systems were not able to meet the increased demands of virtualization. We initially considered EMC VNX storage for the virtualization project, since we were already using them in production. But the EMC solution included a lot of extra features we didn't need for test and dev."

The Solution: Tintri VMstore T540 and Tintri Global Center

Razvan and his team decided to look at different storage options for the bank's test and dev environment. "VMstore was specifically designed for the VMware platform," Razvan explained. "It's a perfect match for the needs of our dev and test environment, delivering high performance in an easy-to-manage platform. We decided to run a PoC using VMstore, based on its superior technology advantages and favorable total cost of ownership."

After the successful PoC, EIB purchased six VMstore T540 systems for the virtual test/dev environment. "The performance of the VMstore systems was comparable to our corporate production system," Razvan reported. "VMstore dynamically keeps the most accessed data in high-speed flash storage, enabling very fast access to our test data. In addition, the load on each of the VMware ESXi servers was reduced, since we were able to offload many key storage tasks to the VMstore systems."

The Results: Simplified Storage Management

Razvan also reported that EIB's IT engineers are now spending far fewer hours managing the VMstore systems than the previous StorageTek devices. "Tintri Global Center provides a single console with key performance indicators for all VMs," Razvan explained. "That visibility enables us to easily see the performance of each individual virtual machine. Tintri Global Center allows us to perform upgrades with no downtime, eliminating the maintenance windows that were necessary when upgrading the former StorageTek systems offline. These features really make the management and maintenance of the VMstore systems almost non-existent."

Challenges

- Needed a high-performance storage platform for test and development
- Existing StorageTek appliances were not up to the demands of virtualization

Solution

- Six Tintri VMstore T540 systems
- Tintri Global Center
- vSphere Web Client Plugin

Results

- Simplified storage management
- Storage performance for dev/test comparable to production systems
- Lowered power consumption in each data center



VMstore also lowered the cost of power in EIB's data centers. "Once we had virtualized everything onto the VMstore units, we were able to decommission many of the StorageTek servers," Razvan reported. "Our total power consumption dropped by 5% in each of our data centers when the 6140s were powered off."

"Our IT team has been very impressed with the Tintri support organization," Razvan concluded. "They are very responsive, provide high-quality support, and are very proactive. They really understand our needs and our particular use cases. The Tintri support reps have been able to solve all of our problems immediately. The Tintri web training modules are also very helpful. Four of our IT engineers have already been certified as Tintri Certified SEs, and we are now evaluating VMstore for other use cases here at EIB."

"VMstore was designed for virtualization and the VMware platform. It's a perfect match for the demands of our dev and test environment, delivering high performance, ease of use, low maintenance, and excellent support."

Rujoiu Razvan, Head of Infrastructure Services, EIB

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