

CASE STUDY

Tintri VMstore™ Enables Polycom to Keep Pace with 400% Growth in Customer Training Environment

VMstore



Polycom helps organizations unleash the power of human collaboration. More than 415,000 companies and institutions worldwide defy distance with secure video, voice, and content solutions from Polycom to increase productivity, speed time to market, provide better customer

service, expand education, and save lives. Polycom and its global partner ecosystem provide flexible collaboration solutions for any environment that deliver the best user experience, enterprise-grade solutions, the broadest multi-vendor integration, and customer choice.

The Challenges: Inadequate Performance and Reliability Issues

Doug Futch is the director of curriculum development and the global education network for Polycom. His group is responsible for supporting Polycom's training, global sales, and service enablement teams. "We provide training for our internal employees and external partners who sell our solutions," noted Futch. "As we increased the amount of training we provide over video, we had to build a more powerful network that would support high performance and easy scalability in the background."

Polycom's Educational Services division is expanding rapidly. "Our division grew over 400% in IT resources last year alone," said Futch. "We originally launched our video training services on a different storage solution. But as we grew, that legacy platform could not keep up with demand. Our instructors were complaining about slow response times from the servers and data storage systems, and we also struggled with reliability issues. Since we were also running out of capacity for our training environment, we decided it was time upgrade to a more powerful storage solution."

The Solution: Tintri VMstore T540, T620, and T850

The Polycom IT team started the search for a new storage platform better suited to the company's training environment. "We began by looking at the brochures and datasheets on Tintri's website," Futch said. "What stood out for me was the high I/O that the VMstore system supported. It wasn't even close in magnitude to our existing legacy solution. I was actually a little skeptical of the marketing claims, but I decided to give it a try. We were pleasantly surprised when our VMstore systems performed even better than advertised."

"Our engineering group was also looking at the VMstore systems during the same timeframe," added Norman Yee, global education network manager at Polycom. "We originally thought about just leveraging what they purchased, letting them cross-charge us for capacity on that single array. But we ended up purchasing the VMstore system before they did."

After checking references with several Tintri customers, Polycom's training division purchased one T540, two T620s, and a T850 system. "We placed a VMstore system in every data center of our global education network, including: Beijing, China; Singapore; Austin, Texas; and one in our Slough, UK data center," Lee reported. "We originally placed the T540 in Austin, but our North American data center is growing so rapidly that we quickly upgraded that unit to a T850 and moved the T540 over to Europe."

The Results: Simplified Storage Management, Higher Performance

Polycom's experience typified customers' reactions when moving from standard infrastructure to Intelligent Infrastructure. "Deploying VMstore was incredibly easy," noted Yee. "We just racked the systems, plugged in the cables, and configured the network. As far as managing the volumes, it's quite different than our legacy environment. I don't have to carve out disk space and allocate it to this server or that server anymore. It certainly saves us a lot of time."

Challenges

- Inadequate performance and reliability issues with legacy standard infrastructure

Solution

- Tintri VMstore T540, T620, and T850

Results

- Higher performance for all of Polycom's employee and customer training courses
- Simplified storage management
- Increased user satisfaction, eliminated all instructor complaints about performance



"We never told any of our instructors that we upgraded our legacy systems to VMstore," Futch shared. "Once we put the VMstore system into the Austin data center, we immediately stopped hearing the complaints about slow response time for the course materials. The VMstore systems are able to handle a lot more IOPS than our legacy systems."

"We offer close to 100 instructor-led training classes every quarter," Futch explained. "We also provide a lot of self-paced courses, where one of our channel partners or a Polycom SE will access our virtualized network and work independently with the Polycom solution. Each one of those courses requires access to approximately ten to twenty virtual servers. Our virtualization environment runs on VMware vSphere for the most part. We do have one solution coming aboard that may use Hyper-V, but VMstore works with the Microsoft hypervisor as well. It's nice to have the flexibility to choose the right virtualization solutions for our environment."

"We haven't had the need to call Tintri Support yet because the systems are so reliable," Yee reported. "Our Tintri sales rep comes by fairly regularly to check up on us and see if we need anything. If we ever have any questions, a simple email to Tintri Support is all it takes. The systems are much less complex than our legacy environment. It was nice not having to attend any specialized training classes to manage the systems."

Polycom's education division also purchased Tintri Global Center. "As we grow, Tintri Global Center will make our environment even easier to manage," noted Futch. "We now have a VMstore system in every theater that we are managing. Global Center's single pane of glass monitoring provides the ability to troubleshoot any issues quickly, allowing us to focus on more strategic IT issues."

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Norman Yee, Global Education Network, Polycom

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