Syddansk Erhvervsskole is the largest technical college system in Denmark, with around 5,300 students and more than 870 employees. Erhvervsskolernes IT Samarbejde (ESIS), is an IT department for the vocational college system in Denmark. It is part of an IT cooperation between eight of Denmark's technical colleges, providing back-office support to local IT staff and supporting all network-related configurations. ESIS hosts all servers and routes their internet through its main data center in Odense, Denmark.

The Challenge

ESIS found that its Dell EqualLogic storage systems were struggling to deliver the required performance as it virtualized more and more servers in its data center using VMware. They also required too much maintenance.

The Solution: Tintri VMstore

After deciding not to continue investing in EqualLogic, ESIS considered a number of options, including Nexenta, Oracle, EMC, and NetApp, but opted for VMstore because it was the only solution designed for virtual environments. ESIS ran a successful proof-of-concept with two boxes so it could replicate all the data offsite while testing the production environment. The VMstore systems surpassed all its expectations.

When it came to installing the VMstore appliance, it was incredibly easy to get up and running. ESIS booted it up, gave it an IP address, connected to the VMware hosts and started migrating everything over. The entire environment was up and running in thirty minutes.

The Results: Reduced Management Time, Improved Forecasting, Better Performance

Before moving to VMstore, the college's users were frustrated with poor application performance. "Everything was lagging and exhibiting very high latency," said Morsony. VMstore delivered a significant increase in performance and capacity. "It has performed perfectly and surpassed the Dell EqualLogic platform by many lengths," he revealed.

Under the old system it took hours to spin up and tear down applications. With VMstore, it takes seconds. In addition, the whole team can manage VMstore and use it for quick cloning and recovery services, compared to a limited number of staff who could do those tasks with Dell EqualLogic storage. Anyone in the data center is able to manage their own storage footprint. According to Morsony, VMstore requires almost no management.

VMstore provides complete visibility of latency in every application in the data center and the ability to see across the infrastructure in real-time. It has simplified troubleshooting across the host, the network, and storage.

By moving from the Dell environment to VMstore, Syddansk Erhvervsskole reduced its data center footprint and power by replacing five Dell EqualLogic boxes with a single VMstore box, achieving a five to one reduction in footprint and power costs.

After three years with VMstore, ESIS had to choose between extending the four-year maintenance deal on its existing appliance for an additional year, or buying a new all-flash VMstore unit. "The choice was easy since we had already been looking at going all-flash for more performance and space," said Sebastian Kim Morsony, IT architect and System Consultant at ESIS. In addition, all-flash has deduplication support.

"It's the perfect fit," Morsony said. "It has the same management as the previous system and the same way of doing things. Everybody not using VMstore is doing storage the wrong way."

Challenges

• Poor storage performance and management complexity
• Too much maintenance required

Solution

• Tintri VMstore

Results

• Significant performance improvements
• Minimal administration and management required
• Better visibility at VM-level
• Reduced footprint and power

> "It has the same management as the previous system and the same way of doing things. Everybody not using VMstore is doing storage the wrong way."
>
> *Sebastian Kim Morsony, IT architect and System Consultant, ESIS*

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

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