InfoCert Moves to Tintri VMstore™ for Higher Performance and Simpler Storage Management

VMstore

InfoCert S.p.A. is Italy's first digital certification authority. With offices in Rome, Milan, and Padua, the company offers a wide range of trusted services, including electronic archiving, digital signing, invoicing, and certified electronic mail. Since its inception, InfoCert has issued and managed more than 4,600,000 qualified digital signature certificates for thousands of clients across Europe and around the world.

The Challenge: Aging Storage Systems No Longer Meeting Customer Needs

InfoCert designs and implements high-profile IT solutions for "document dematerialization"– which is the process of converting paper documents to electronic formats. All of the company's advanced applications and services place heavy demands on the underlying storage platform. "We were relying on several aging NAS storage systems," noted Christian Gugliucci, system and storage administrator at InfoCert S.p.A. "Our traditional systems originally performed adequately, but they were no longer meeting the needs of our demanding customer applications. When multitasking on our existing environment, storage performance would decrease significantly. The biggest impact occurred when we were deduplicating data on the old systems."

Gugliucci and his team needed a new storage solution that could provide better performance for the company's data-intensive applications. In addition to providing higher performance, they also wanted to find a solution that was easier to manage, to reduce operational expense for the storage platform.

The Solution: Tintri VMstore T540

The InfoCert IT team ran a PoC on the Tintri VMstore systems in 2013. The test was conducted on a small, redundant slice of the company's VMware production environment in order to verify Tintri's claims of simplified installation and management. The results more than validated the team's expectations. When asked why InfoCert then chose Tintri VMstore, Gugliucci replied, "We searched for a storage solution with an enterprise write cache feature–other vendors still utilize a read cache feature. We felt that the VMstore approach was the best way to guarantee high performance during our heavy read-write peaks."

The Result: Reduced Storage Management Time, Increased Cost Savings

One of the most significant business benefits InfoCert achieved by migrating to the Tintri VMstore solution was the huge simplification in storage administration. "Moving to VMstore reduced the time needed to manage our storage environment from ten hours per week to just eight to ten hours per month," noted Gugliucci. "VMstore is an amazing product that requires almost no management."

Migrating to the Tintri VMstore platform has resulted in substantial cost savings for InfoCert. "We achieved a significant reduction in OPEX by moving to VMstore," noted Gugliucci. "The VMstore platform is so easy to use, we were able to eliminate the specialized training needed to manage our previous storage environment. We can now reassign our storage admins to more strategic IT projects."

Gugliucci also likes the rapid clone feature of the VMstore systems. "It used to take thirty minutes just to clone a single VM with our old NAS storage systems. But with VMstore, we can now easily clone a VM in less than a minute."

Challenges

• Reduce OPEX of storage installation and management

• Eliminate slow service performance during read/write peaks

• Minimize service impact during storage controller maintenance or hardware failures

Solution

• Tintri VMstore T540

Results

• Reduced storage management from ten hours/week to eight to ten hours per month

• Eliminated the need for specialized training on the storage infrastructure

• Cut time to clone virtual machines from thirty minutes to one minute

• Reduced OPEX of the storage environment

Tintri
Intelligent Infrastructure

With Tintri VMstore, InfoCert no longer has to worry about impacting service performance during storage controller upgrades. "With our previous storage platform, we had to take our systems completely offline for several minutes while upgrading the firmware controller. With VMstore, we can continue operations uninterrupted. Our storage systems were not impacted at all during our most recent service upgrade."

When asked what features were important in the decision to switch to Tintri VMstore, Gugliucci concluded, "We really love the automatic start-up of all virtual machines, the high performance, and the huge reduction in maintenance we get with VMstore. Moving to Tintri VMstore was one of the smartest IT decisions we have ever made."

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Christian Gugliucci, System and Storage Administrator, InfoCert S.p.A.

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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