Better Performance, Simple Management

The Epiphany School of Global Studies implemented Hive Fabric™ and gained visibility and enhanced control over their IT infrastructure, dramatically simplified their datacenter and reduced their total cost of ownership (TCO) by more than 50%. Hive Fabric provided a reduction in licensing fees and hardware costs. The simpler IT environment allowed Epiphany to manage the infrastructure themselves and eliminate expensive, outsourced IT resources.

The Epiphany School of Global Studies was hosting their virtual server and desktop infrastructure on the Atlantis HyperScale platform. While Hyperscale delivered outstanding all-flash performance, the VDI solution required additional hypervisor and broker licensing which increased the overall cost per desktop. This resulted in the school having to rely on multiple software vendors, each with their own cost and support burden. In addition, the VDI architecture resulted in an overly complex environment that needed to be monitored and managed to maintain the high level of uptime required at the school. In order to manage this multiple vendor stack, Epiphany required a full-time in-house skilled IT resource as well as a third-party vendor with skills specifically geared toward managing the various different components of the virtual desktop and server environment.

BUSINESS NEEDS

With the start of a new academic year Epiphany had to expand the capabilities of their VDI deployment to meet increased demand from their students and staff and roll out new desktop applications. With a definitive IT budget, as like most private schools, management was focused on increasing efficiency and leveraging the hardware assets they had already invested in.

CHALLENGE

The goal of maintaining costs given the changing environment seemed like a stretch goal, cost reduction seemed impossible. Datacenter optimization and simplified VDI management were the only ways the IT team could deliver on the expectations of the school.

SOLUTION

The Hive Fabric solution includes virtualization of both the Server and Desktop Infrastructure. The Hive Fabric platform simplified the datacenter and replaced the need for their current multi-vendor approach. Deployed on existing hardware, Hive Fabric replaced the existing hypervisor, management infrastructure, software-defined storage and virtual desktop broker.

BENEFITS

- 50% reduction in TCO
- Re-use existing hardware
- Reduce required hardware by 25%
- Eliminated the need for multiple vendors
- Simplified datacenter

HIVEIO PRODUCT

- Hive Fabric

"At the Epiphany School of Global Studies, the HiveIO Hyperconverged Fabric solution helped us meet our growing demands and enabled us to not only use our existing hardware but reduce that requirement by 25%. Our decision to move with Hive Fabric also eliminated the need for multiple vendors and reduced our TCO by almost 50%. We are now ready for the new school year challenges"

Bobbi Jo Kelly, IT Director

THE EPIPHANY SCHOOL of GLOBAL STUDIES

The Epiphany School of Global Studies is a comprehensive globally focused school committed to providing students with the knowledge and experiences they need to make them successful in an increasingly globalized 21st century.

Two campuses in the heart of New Bern, North Carolina providing education to 500 students.

For more than a decade, The Epiphany School of Global Studies has been enhancing learning and student experience with a best in class curriculum delivered by quality staff with the support of strong technology platforms.

HiveIO

HiveIO is an infrastructure innovation company delivering the power, value, and agility of the public cloud with all the benefits of security, control, and governance provided by the private cloud. Our secure cloud software infrastructure platform and its all-inclusive ground up solution delivers the on-premise cloud service out of the box.

25% SAVINGS IN HARDWARE AND BETTER PERFORMANCE

Prior to deploying Hive Fabric, Epiphany required four servers to support the uptime and resilience demanded by the school. Deploying Hive Fabric reduced the hardware requirements by 25% through the consolidation of VMs onto three hosts whilst still maintaining the required level of performance for the end-user. The scale out architecture of Hive Fabric will also allow Epiphany to grow one server at a time should the number of VMs or users that need to be supported change. With the reduced compute platform, Epiphany was able to use one of the existing servers as a hot spare and extend the need to purchase additional hardware by two years.

SIMPLICITY DRIVES LEANER IT TEAM

Hive Fabric's simplicity allowed Epiphany to quickly and efficiently train their own IT team to manage the environment moving forward. Removing an expensive third-party support agency that had been maintaining their complex virtual server and desktop estate. This was particularly important for Epiphany as the outsource contract grew as a percentage of their IT budget year over year and put them in an untenable position moving forward.

LESS CAPEX AND LESS OVERALL OPEX

Hive Fabric increased the operational lifetime of the existing hardware already deployed at the school. Prior to moving to Hive Fabric Epiphany was faced with the choice of procuring an extended hardware maintenance contract or refreshing the server infrastructure entirely; either choice posed a significant capital investment. The move to Hive Fabric avoided this spend entirely and the server that was freed up reduced the operational budget required for the upcoming year as it provided the means to protect against hardware failure without purchasing spare components or expensive service contracts.

EASIER MANAGEMENT OF THE DATACENTER

Hive Fabric is ideally suited for education where IT teams are small and access to training can be difficult. IT is often not the first priority and infrastructure needs to be made to work hard in order to maximize the return when an investment is made. The simplicity of Hive Fabric significantly reduces the training overhead for technology. This benefit has been clearly realized by Epiphany as they now manage their own IT infrastructure.

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