BigTec Transforms finance advisory firm’s infrasTucTure wiTh new hyperconverged soluTion

The Challenges:

- To replace the IT legacy infrastructure, which consisted of Netapp Veeam for backup and Cisco networking, with a new scalable solution which would support future growth.
- To strengthen the business continuity provision plan to ensure that operations could continue as normal in the event of a data centre (DC) outage.
- To undertake this project with as little interruption to business operations as possible.

The Results:

- An industry first; hyperconverged infrastructure made up of Nutanix, Rubrik and Mellanox.
- A new IT infrastructure that is now easy to manage and has the scalability to keep pace with increasing amounts of data produced and facilitate any potential future DC site moves.

The corporate finance advisory company operates in 10 countries in Europe, North America and Asia. It delivers its consultancy services worldwide.

The Challenge

Before the project, the infrastructure consisted of Netapp Veeam for backup and Cisco networking. However, given the company’s increasing growth, a scalable IT infrastructure model was needed that would support day to day business operations as well as any future advancements.

“In recent years our organisation has grown extensively. Although we were initially looking for a storage update for our HQ in France, we soon discovered that it would be beneficial - in terms of both technological advancement and financial savings - to invest in an overhaul of our entire IT infrastructure.” said an IT Engineer at the company.

The main objectives of the project were:

- To rebuild the IT Infrastructure in order to support current operations and future growth. New offices, new applications, data forensics and big data were all considerations that needed to be taken into account.
- To strengthen the business continuity provision to ensure that operations could continue as normal in case of a data centre (DC) outage.
The Solution

At the core of the solution is Nutanix with its market leading hyperconvergence technology, whilst operating on the same extensible, webscale principles is Rubrik to deliver vital data management capabilities. Together the solutions would also elevate the internal IT team to be able focus on the applications and services that power the business.

“We gave the client the opportunity to be more strategic about its infrastructure and take advantage of a complete datacentre transformation - the alternative was more of the same old multi-tier legacy IT,” said Fabien Azra, Pre-Sales Manager at BigTec.

In addition, because performance is critical for the business, BigTec suggested Mellanox as the ideal IP switching component. Mellanox is able to actively support the scalability of Nutanix and Rubrik and its cost effectiveness enabled BigTec to make the whole project more financially viable.

The deployment is the first to combine Nutanix, Rubrik and Mellanox technologies in one hyperconverged model.

Azra added, “All three of these disruptive technologies are incredibly effective. This is the first time that they have all been combined and it has resulted in an even more powerful solution because of the alliance interoperability between the three vendors.”

Results

Throughout the process, the majority of the implementation was undertaken by partner, Artemys, and the hoster for the secondary site, Fiducial. In a collaborative move, when it came to the hyperconvergence stage, where the Nutanix, Rubrik and Mellanox products were brought together, BigTec stepped in to offer further consultancy around the Nutanix and Rubrik technologies. This process took just 15 days.

In total, the whole project took just over three months, which included all project meetings, the implementation of the hyperconverged infrastructure, migration of Microsoft Exchange 2016 and Proofpoint security integration.

The customer is now witnessing the following benefits:

- **Scalability** - with its expanding business model, the company’s IT architecture will be able to keep pace with its increasing number of employees and growing operations.
- **Easy to manage** - given that the company’s IT teams are relatively small in comparison to its operations, the internal teams will be freed up to concentrate on higher value-added tasks for innovation and improving business processes.
- **Flexibility** - the ever increasing amount of data that the business is producing means that it may need to move its DC to a new site at a later date. By implementing a flexible infrastructure, it will be able to achieve this whilst continuing to have access with no downtime or disruption to any day-to-day operations.

The entire project was handled by BigTec and Artemys, with customer experience and quality of service front of mind. Every effort was made to ensure that the company could continue their business operations with as little disruption as possible, which was a key objective agreed at the beginning of the process.

Azra concluded, “Looking forward, this new hyperconverged infrastructure will help our client to keep up with the demands of their customers, whilst also freeing up more time for their IT staff so that they can pursue other areas for improving the business. This entire model was designed with the client’s future in mind.”