

## Intermountain Electronics Standardizes on NexentaStor™ to Manage Primary Storage

### Challenges

Needed greater storage protection to ensure data is secure through updated disaster recovery plan.

### Benefits

Comprehensive storage management. End-to-end protection with updated disaster recovery plan.

### Solution

NexentaStor 3.0.5

### BUSINESS OVERVIEW

Intermountain Electronics (IE), headquartered in Price, Utah, designs, engineers, manufactures, and services custom electrical distribution and control equipment for Underground Mining, Surface Mining, Power Generation, Oil and Gas, Refineries, Tunneling, Utilities, and Federal, State, and Local Governments.

Intermountain Electronics is one of the 75 fastest growing companies in Utah and has won several awards, including Best of State in its category in 2009 and 2010, as well as Utah's 2009 Manufacturer of the Year award.

Businesses rely on Intermountain Electronics to provide them with quality products and services. From stationary and portable substations, dry type power transformers, power centers, motor control centers, switchgears, diesel generators, capacitor banks, and variable frequency drives, to cable splices, metal fabrication, and emissions control systems, IE understands the environmental conditions, operating requirements, and MSHA and EPA regulations the company must satisfy.

*"After evaluating Dell EqualLogic and Left Hand Networks, we decided on Nexenta for its rich feature set. By far it gave us the best performance for the price point."*

*Zac Woodward*

### CHALLENGES

When it came to dealing with data storage issues, IE faced several challenges:

**Continuous Data Growth:** Industrial design and manufacturing produces massive amounts of data that requires a robust data storage solution with room to grow. As one of the fastest growing companies in Utah, IE needed to expand capacity to handle the rising activity of its engineers. To accommodate ever-increasing amounts of data, IE needed a solution that would be highly scalable and flexible to meet its business demands. Costly legacy solutions have a "data silo" approach to storing and managing data that did not meet IE's flexibility and scalability requirements.

**Greater Data Availability through Reduced Down Time:** Engineering is the core of IE's equipment design and manufacturing business, and access to data is crucial to IE's engineers. The company needed a storage solution that allowed multiple users to access the same data at the same time from different devices with minimal interruption.

Stored data can become corrupt and lose integrity over time (bit rot). Nexenta, with ZFS, is designed with emphasis on data integrity

**Redesigning Storage Infrastructure to Contain Costs:** Since IE depends so much on reliable availability of data, it is crucial to not only set up primary storage, but also backup storage to protect themselves against catastrophe. With NexentaStor, IE set up a remote secondary storage configuration in which the company now backs up important data on a regular basis. Naturally, IE wanted to do all this without the high premiums and restrictions set forth by more traditional legacy solutions.

## SOLUTION BENEFITS

NexentaStor is the leading hardware-independent storage solution built upon ZFS technology. IE, after considering all its configuration options and services from other storage vendors (e.g., Dell EqualLogic, Left Hand Networks, etc.), standardized on NexentaStor for its unified storage strategy. This included managing IE's primary / backup storage and disaster recovery solutions. Below are some highlights of IE's use of NexentaStor:

**End-to-End Comprehensive Storage Management:** IE needed one comprehensive storage solution that not only could manage its primary storage, but also came with rich features, including backup, disaster recovery, and high availability. IE now employs a single system to manage all its storage processes.

**Quickly Recover from Catastrophe:** Accurate primary data storage and reliable backups are crucial to IE's business success.

## BUSINESS BENEFITS

NexentaStor helps implement cost-effective, high performance storage by taking advantage of features such as inline deduplication, unlimited snapshots, thin provisioning, and hybrid storage pooling. Other benefits include:

### Lower Operational Costs & Affordable Capacity Expansion:

NexentaStor's ZFS deduplication technology, paired with optimized commodity hardware, makes capacity expansion affordable. NexentaStor deploys hybrid storage pools that allow you to spread large datasets across multiple servers without necessitating a volume manager.

**Green Minded Storage Efficiency:** NexentaStor not only supports inline deduplication of data, but also file compression and thin provisioning to enable efficient management of large data sets by using fewer hard drives and generating a lower carbon footprint. The results: fewer servers purchased, lower power consumption, and increased administrative efficiency translating to average storage cost savings of 60-70% compared with legacy storage solutions.

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