

Use Case

Business-critical infrastructure upgrade to support explosive growth in file repositories, accommodates rapidly increasing virtualization usage

Requirement

Use existing hardware

Solution

Single Storage Management Interface

COMPANY OVERVIEW

Univentio, founded in 1952, is a Netherlands-based provider of patent document delivery services that was acquired by LexisNexis in 2005. This acquisition reinforced a commitment by LexisNexis to provide legal and business professionals with authoritative and comprehensive intellectual property, research information, productivity tools, and services.

LexisNexis® Univentio is a leading licensor of global patent data, offering more than 100 patent authorities in bibliographic form, 31 authorities in full text, and 20 authorities with machine translations. Utilizing technologically advanced data fabrication processes and database management techniques, detailed patent content is compiled from information received from national patent offices around the world and reprocessed with various proprietary patent sources.

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CHALLENGES

Patents are particularly difficult to translate because they contain specialized legal terminology and highly complex technical information covering many different domains, including, but not limited to, science, medicine, engineering, and information technology. LexisNexis Univentio stores 200 million files, and expects that number to quadruple in the not too distant future.

Previously, the files were spread across many systems of varying sizes, including Apple Xsan servers, direct attached storage boxes, and several different appliances. LexisNexis Univentio found it had too many separate systems to manage, all of which were not delivering the required high-level performance.

They needed to find a single interface to manage all their documentation storage needs and retire all disparate solutions.

**NexentaStor™ + HA Cluster
Licensed Feature, and Nexenta
MetroHA™**

- 175 physical servers
- Cluster of 8 x VMware servers
- Shared storage via NFS with 120 x hard drives and 8 x SSDs for caching
- 240TB raw capacity onsite
- 90TB for disaster recovery at a second co-location site, 30km away
- VPN Tunnel for data replication

“We need to rely on the platform since we are building our business on it. The new solution had to offer enterprise features and stability at an affordable price. Built on ZFS, NexentaStor helps solve our performance needs and costs substantially less than the legacy providers. It has the additional benefit of features that can scale as we grow. It’s a winning situation.”

Ronald Smits
IT Manager
LexisNexis Univentio

SOLUTION

It was important that the solution that LexisNexis Univentio settled on was reliable because it would serve as the backbone for the business. The company considered a number of alternatives. None of them could provide what was needed for the right price.

Fortunately, they were able to find a suitable solution, NexentaStor™, at a substantially lower price than what was offered by others. One of the key benefits of choosing NexentaStor is that the product is hardware-agnostic, so that LexisNexis Univentio would not be tied down to a specific hardware brand enabling them to continue using their existing Dell servers.

NexentaStor's ZFS foundation offered massively scalable storage environments with thousands of snapshots, free versioning, and high granularity of data protection. The system was ideally suited to meet future growth requirements. In addition, they already had in-house knowledge of the technology, and the presence of a robust ZFS community meant that support and expertise would be available whenever required.

When using the HA Cluster licensed feature, neither NexentaStor appliance is designated as the primary or secondary system, so two NexentaStor instances can be configured as an active/active pair. Storage is jointly managed via the HA Cluster, configured as shared storage.

System failures can be detected and shared volumes transferred to the other server in the cluster pair. The licensed feature provides high availability for shared storage accessible from both appliances.

BUSINESS BENEFITS

While choosing NexentaStor meant considerable cost savings for LexisNexis Univentio, it also enabled the company to achieve a rapid and smooth migration from its old system.

It took less than six months from project design to going live with the new system. Given the simplicity of using NexentaStor, LexisNexis Univentio was able to handle the migration process internally.

ZFS scalability is a significant benefit since the storage system will be able to handle the predicted fourfold increase in files housed. NexentaStor also performs well in a virtualized environment—with features such as deduplication, thousands of snapshots, thin provisioning, and hybrid storage pooling—designed to help customers implement cost-effective, high-performance storage.

The NexentaStor implementation provided all the functionality, at a dramatically reduced price compared to other systems. It also avoids proprietary vendor platforms lock-in. The solution delivered significant improvements in storage performance while NexentaStor's massively scalable ZFS foundation helped LexisNexis Univentio to meet all its future storage requirements.

LexisNexis Univentio Opts for
Nexenta Storage for Global Patent
Data