

NexentaStor Delivers Cost-Effective, Scalable, and Easier-to-Manage Storage for Expanding Claims Management Company



Key Highlights

Industry: Claims Management Services

Challenge:

- Current solution reaching end-of-life
- Performance
- Capacity / Scalability
- Needed VMware Compatibility
- Cost

Solution:

- NexentaStor

Benefits:

- Solution costs were lowered
- Fast and easy deployment
- Ease of use cut management time by half
- Improved disk utilization
- 50% reduction in back-up times
- VMware compatible
- Massively scalable storage environment
- Unlimited snapshots, free versioning
- End-to-end data integrity

Business Overview

Established in 2000, Scalepoint Technologies focuses on claims management services. The company's intelligent claims management technology has handled more than one million claims through integrated turnkey systems. It has customers spread across seven countries and is continuing to expand as a multinational business.

The backbone of its business is the Intelligent Claims Management technology which, with more than 1 million claims executed, has proven its market leading construction with 75% of claims handled within the first call.

Scalepoint offers its clients and their customers a Web-based portal to one of the most extensive technology databases of products and services.

For suppliers and repairers, the system includes sophisticated data-handling tools, which enable advanced data mining, reporting, and communication services.

With its accurate product interrogation capabilities and easy to use interface, Scalepoint ensures only valid claims are dealt with immediately and at the right cost.

Challenges

The company's Dell EMC SAN was reaching the end of its life and was struggling to meet the required performance and capacity Scalepoint needed. And the coming growth would only add to that predicament.

With a number of new projects looming on the horizon that would require fast, cost effective, and expandable storage, Scalepoint decided it was time to replace its existing SAN. It also needed to add SSD cache and deduplication as essential features going forward, along with the capability to work well with VMware.

"We needed something faster and more reliable but that was also extremely cost effective to expand with us. A solution that offered easy management and would be better suited for use with VMware," explains manager for IT operations, Henrik Hansen.

And the entire solution had to be cost effective, not only for initial deployment but also as the company's business expanded.

“NexentaStor has provided us with a cost-effective system that delivers much easier management and the scalability we need going forward.”

—**Henrik Hansen**, Scalepoint, Manager for IT operations

Solution Overview

With support from reseller partner, Gnumerate IT ApS, Scalepoint identified Nexenta as a potential replacement for its Dell EMC SAN. Among NexentaStor’s valued features were deduplication and SSD caching. The solution now supports a wide range of protocols, including NFS and iSCSI, and performs particularly well with VMware.

The company never had deployed an open storage solution before but had no qualms about opting for open source-based technology such as NexentaStor because it presented a better opportunity for Scalepoint to set up an environment that would better match its storage needs going forward.

Alongside its existing 24TB direct attached storage, 8TB network attached storage, 14TB tier 1 and 2 SANs, the company installed 13.7TB of raw capacity, made up of 78 600GB SAS drives and 14 230 GB SSDs, managed by NexentaStor to provide tier 2 level storage.

Deployment was easy and fast. The process took about a week and was completed by Gnumerate Aps with support from Scalepoint’s in-house team.

Once installed, the system went live within a couple of hours.

Business Benefits

Deploying a NexentaStor solution has resulted in significant cost savings in terms of purchase cost and management time. Hansen estimates the company saved 900,000 Danish Krone by choosing NexentaStor. And the time spent managing the storage system has been cut in half.

The NexentaStor storage system has led to dramatically improved disk utilisation. Whereas the Dell EMC SAN was at the limit of its performance and capacity, the new system has more servers running on it but still hasn’t reached 50% capacity.

All the servers are running much faster, especially database reliant servers such as Exchange, SQL, SharePoint, and Navision. Users experience much faster load times in Navision and on the Scalepoint intranet. There has been a 50% reduction in back-up times.

In addition to deduplication, SSD caching, and its suitability as a platform to work with VMware, NexentaStor also features an additional high availability plug-in that provides data availability. Recovery, in the event of disaster, can be automatic or manual. A user-friendly graphical user interface (GUI) makes it easier for non-IT personnel to activate recovery.

NexentaStor’s open source technology mean that users like Scalepoint are not locked in to buying more expensive products from a particular vendor or paying unnecessary mark-ups for standard features.

In addition, because it is ZFS-based, NexentaStor offers massively scalable storage environments with a virtually unlimited number of snapshots, free versioning, and high granularity of data protection. NexentaStor’s ZFS technology delivered the scalability Scalepoint required to meet all its future storage requirements.

By deploying NexentaStor, Scalepoint was able to replace its ageing tier 2 storage solution at a lower price than competing products while enjoying dramatic improvements in performance and capacity. The company saved significant costs when compared to proprietary systems from other vendors.

NexentaStor included standard features, such as deduplication and SSD caching, which offers significant benefits to Scalepoint today and in the future. The solution now performs particularly well with VMware. And management time spent on storage has been reduced by 50%.

System Configuration

- > Had 24TB direct attached storage, 8TB NAS, 14TB tier 1 and 2 SANs
- > Added NexentaStor with HA Plug-in:
 - 46TB raw capacity
 - 78 600GB SAS drives
 - 14 230GB SSDs



Nexenta Systems is the leading supplier of enterprise-class OpenStorage solutions. Its flagship software-only platform, NexentaStor, delivers high-performance, ultra-scalable, cloud- and virtualization-optimized storage solutions.

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