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Global Leader in Software Defined Storage.

CRM

Statigest

French software company chooses Nexenta to pool storage and boost performance

Business impact

- Multi-protocol support has enabled Statigest to pool storage and significantly boost production capabilities.

- NexentaStor's open storage and ZFS foundations deliver high availability, snapshots and automatic failover at a lower price and better performance.

- Capacity can be added quickly and easily, failed or failing drives can be replaced without downtime

Business overview

Founded in 1977, Statigest is a software company that provides CRM and related applications for sales forces to more than 5,000 daily users. Headquartered just outside Paris, the company operates in France, Belgium, Spain and Portugal. It has 50 employees.

It has a primary data center and a back up site with a total of 35 servers across both sites running a mixture of Solaris, Windows and Linux and 50 PCs.

Challenges

Statigest was seeking to increase its capacity and address shortcomings in reliability and limitations on production time. With a mixed environment of Unix and Windows using the CIFS and NFS protocols, the company had evolved a cumbersome environment reliant on NFS on Windows Storage 2003, NFS on Windows Storage 2008, NFS/CIFS on Solaris hosts and some servers using local drives on the RAID controller.

The limitations of the storage system were also restricting production to launching no more than 16 instances of Statigest's SGBD (Système Gestion de Base de Données' or DataBase Management System / DBMS) program on the server at a time because the storage subsystem was unable

to handle any more. The company was looking for a solution that could make the process simpler, enable access to CIFS and NFS at the same time, increase capacity and deliver a performance boost. Statigest also required a system with snapshot capability and Active Directory integration.

The Nexenta Solution

Through its existing relationship with Transtec, Statigest was made aware of Nexenta. After evaluating a number of suppliers, it opted for Nexenta to provide its storage system based on capability, performance and price. The company opted for a NexentaStor HA (High Availability) cluster for the primary site with 16TB of usable storage (32TB raw) in CIFS/NFS linked to a NexentaStor system with 16TB usable storage (32TB raw) at the back up site. Each storage pool in the primary and back up site consists of 58 600GB SAS drives, 2 spares, 2 ZIL mirror 8GB SSD drives and 2 400GB SSD LOG drives.

The sites are connected by 60Mbps and 30Mbps fiber with a firewall at each end. The storage pool at the primary site is fully replicated at the backup site.

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NexentaStor benefits

NexentaStor helps customers implement cost-effective, high performance storage by taking advantage of features such as hybrid storage pooling, unlimited snap-shots, massive scalability and high availability delivered a significant boost to overall performance.

NexentaStor's open source technology roots mean that users like Statigest 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 based on ZFS, NexentaStor offers massively scalable storage environments with a virtually unlimited number of snapshots, free versioning and high granularity of data protection.

The clustering capability in NexentaStor has been a significant benefit to Statigest by delivering enhanced stability with recovery from failover taking less than one minute. NexentaStor supports many different protocols, including CIFS/SMB, NFS, iSCSI, and Fiber Channel, making it possible to implement hybrid storage pooling and improve the capabilities of a mixed storage environment.

By using NFS with NexentaStor, up to 64 SGBD instances can be launched at once on the server. This enables Statigest to handle more customers at the same time and has reduced production time for this task by more than two hours. In addition, production at Statigest splits storage between 80% write and 20% read. By using SSDs for ZFS intent log and read cache, Statigest has experienced a huge boost to NFS write which, in turn, has significantly increased overall performance.

New capacity can be added quickly and easily – Statigest moved from a 12TB initial pool to 16TB pool in a few minutes – while failed or failing drives can be replaced without any down time.

About Nexenta

Nexenta is the global leader in Software-Defined Storage, delivering easy-to-use, secure and ultra-low cost storage software solutions. Nexenta solutions are hardware-, protocol-, and app-agnostic, providing innovation freedom and speed for organizations to realize "true" benefits of Software-Defined Infrastructure-centric Cloud Computing. Nexenta enables workloads from rich media-driven Social Living to Mobility; from the Internet of Things to Big Data; from OpenStack and CloudStack to Do-It-Yourself Cloud deployments. Founded around an "open source" platform and industry-disruptive vision, Nexenta delivers its award- and patent-winning software-only unified storage management solutions with a global partner network.

For more information:

Website: www.nexenta.com,
Twitter: @nexenta
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Also, download the Nexenta Special Edition Software Defined Data Centers (SDDC) for Dummies eBook.

"Nexenta's Software-Defined Storage has made everything much easier, not only does it enable access to CIFS and NFS at the same time, but it has increased capacity and delivered a serious performance boost." - Christophe Grün, Responsable Infrastructure, Statigest