nexenta™

Global Leader in Software-Defined Storage.

Managed Software-Defined Storage by ServerCentral and Nexenta

ServerCentral
Chicago, IL
IT Infrastructure Solutions

servercentral®

System configuration

Storage Software: NexentaStor + HA Cluster
Capacity: 600TB (and counting)
CPU: Xeon Quad Core 5606
Memory: 192 GB Memory
HDD: (90) 2 TB Seagate 7200 RPM SAS in 45 mirrored pairs
Networking: (2) 10 GB connections running LACP

Business Overview

Recognized by Inc. Magazine as one of the fastest-growing private companies in America for five consecutive years, ServerCentral is an established provider of IT infrastructure solutions for companies including Ars Technica, CDW, DePaul University, Discovery Communications, New Relic, Outbrain, Shopify, TrueCar, and USG. The driver of ServerCentral's success lies in their commitment to understanding what customers want to accomplish before building the appropriate infrastructures to support them.

"All too often, businesses are stuck adapting their business goals to fit available technology solutions," said Tom Kiblin, Director of Managed Services at ServerCentral. "ServerCentral has been upending the paradigm since 1999."

This time, it's about storage

"The reality is that every business has their own version of Black Friday, and this is especially significant with respect to cloud storage," said Kiblin. "Businesses are either high availability (HA) or they're not. The businesses that architect for HA can scale to meet a burst and then elegantly degrade, while the businesses that can't meet demands in this way are seriously at risk."

Having worked with EMC, Scality, Dell, and a host of other products, ServerCentral has a great deal of experience with all types of storage platforms—but their customers wanted something faster, more nimble and more manageable. The growing demand for elastic, highly scalable storage presented the perfect opportunity for ServerCentral to add software-defined storage (SDS) to their toolkit.

"It took six months to find something with the ability to adapt to dynamic storage demands without the need to rearchitect," said Kiblin. "We evaluated a seemingly endless number of SDS solutions before ultimately deploying NexentaStor."

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Solution

NexentaStor is Nexenta's flagship SDS platform with SMARTS: Security, Manageability, Availability, Reliability, (lower) TCO, and Scalability. It had everything ServerCentral was looking for:

• Quick replication across multiple locations

• Performance maintenance throughout elasticity

• High availability

• Extremely competitive per-TB and per-IO pricing

• No forklift-level upgrades

• Reconfigurations don't incur downtime

"Storage can be a significant challenge, said George Nelson, Manager of Managed Services at ServerCentral, "but ServerCentral's technical chops and Nexenta's SDS expertise make for a formidable combination."

ServerCentral worked directly with Nexenta's team to install NexentaStor on certified, commodity hardware. Deployment was a breeze.

"The process was very, very smooth," said Nelson. "It literally took longer for the hardware to arrive than it did to install, configure, and get comfortable with it."

Benefits

"Given the nature of our business, we have to think three to five years out to make sure that our customers are benefitting from the latest and smartest technological advances and innovations," according to Nelson. "Many businesses are about to run into significant issues around storage management, scalability, security and economics. We are very pleased to have found NexentaStor when we did so we can keep our customers ahead of the curve."

Like many businesses struggling with storage needs, the first impression of NexentaStor will be an economic one.

"Too many SDS solutions out there are prohibitively expensive for most companies," said Nelson. "But we don't have to worry about that with NexentaStor."

In fact, ServerCentral can build a custom NexentaStor solution at a fraction of the cost. Similar-performing storage solutions built on traditional hardware cost four to eight times more than ServerCentral's managed storage solution.

NexentaStor is now up and running across multiple locations, with petabytes of data under management.

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