Arkadin Finds Peace of Mind with NexentaStor for Global Storage Requirements

Arkadin
Paris, France (headquarters)
Hosting/IT Solutions

arkadin
COLLABORATION SERVICES

an NTT Communications Company

System configuration

Storage Software: NexentaStor High Availability Cluster
Capacity: 64TB
CPU: SuperMicro
Memory: 96GB
HDD: 64 1TB disks, 4 128 GB SSDs
Networking: 10GB/s copper links

Business Overview

Founded in 2001, Arkadin is one of the largest and fastest growing collaboration service providers in the world, offering a complete range of integrated audio, web, video and Unified Communications solutions. With a global network of 53 offices in 32 countries across the globe, Arkadin delivers its business solutions using a software as a service (SaaS) model, providing customers with fast, scalable deployments with a high ROI.

In early 2011, the launch of the Arkadin Cloud Collaboration Platform – a private IP network in the cloud - took the company's collaboration offering to the next level. Arkadin's innovative cloud collaboration service provides customers with a single list of country access numbers and support from Arkadin Client Care, accessible at any time and in local language, effectively streamlining global conferencing.

Challenges

Arkadin's R&D data centre holds more than 500 virtual machines (VMs), hosted on seven Dell servers, with a mixture of Microsoft and in-house applications. The company's storage requirements were growing at more than 20% annually and its existing infrastructure was struggling to cope. In addition, the R&D department, which managed its own infrastructure, did not have any storage administrators. Maintenance was difficult because Arkadin was reliant on a mixture of local storage on ESXi hosts and NFS-based storage.

Arkadin identified a need for an alternative storage solution that would meet its capacity requirements and future growth expectations, and that was at the same time simple to use and efficient enough to host all dev/test/bench environments. The new solution needed to deliver optimal performance and resiliency with minimal administration at a competitive price.

The Nexenta Solution

In exploring alternatives, Arkadin examined open source storage to move away from legacy storage solutions. Despite having previously used open source storage, the Arkadin team held reservation about relying on the technology for mission critical tasks and the level of support.

Nexenta successfully provided Arkadin with their state-of-the-art NexentaStor community edition solution to test the solution, which met all current requirements while allowing for expanding future needs. Arkadin then opted for a 64TB NexentaStor Enterprise Edition license coupled with the Nexenta's High Availability (HA) Cluster option, installing two storage heads with 96Gb of RAM, three Supermicro JBODs with 64 1TB hard drives, two 128GB solid state disks (SSDs) and two 128GB SRAM disks.

Because hardware had previously been installed and racked in the data centre, deployment of the NexentaStor solution was performed remotely by a Nexenta field engineer and completed in only two days. 300 VMs were migrated in small batches, ensuring no drop in performance.

NexentaStor Benefits

By installing a storage solution with 60TB of raw storage and compression based on NexentaStor, Arkadin has been able to implement a system that addresses its current and future capacity and performance requirements in a cost effective manner. When providing additional storage capacity, a JBOD can be seamlessly added to Arkadin's existing Nexenta solution with little disruption, ensuring continuity of service. And Nexenta's inherently open storage foundation means that Arkadin avoids vendor lock in.

The NexentaStor HA Cluster option provides significant resilience and redundancy capabilities. Active failover capabilities for NexentaStor servers eliminate a NexentaStor server as a single point of failure. NexentaStor HA Cluster manages and controls the shared storage which is accessible from both NexentaStor servers.

NexentaStor provides better capacity, resilience and scalability at a more affordable price than other alternatives. The cluster option deliver resiliency that have helped Arkadin to significantly reduce the storage administration workload. In fact, the only time spent on management is for upgrades.

Business Impact

- NexentaStor provides better capacity, resilience and scalability at a more affordable price than the previous system
- NexentaStor HA Cluster option provides significant resilience and redundancy capabilities
- Very easy to implement and get up and running. Minimal administration or management
- Rock solid performance
- No vendor lock-in so no danger of being forced to follow an expensive and inflexible proprietary upgrade path

"Installing a storage solution from Nexenta has allowed us to address our current and future capacity and performance requirements in a cost effective manner. We now have the confidence that our storage is totally aligned to our business, which is a great feeling."

Vincent Thinselin, Senior Technical Architect