

City Clinic

Case Study

Nexenta Cures City Clinic's Storage Headache

Varna, Bulgaria
www.cityclinic.bg
Healthcare



Summary

Challenge: Create a technology showcase that would differentiate the hospital from its rivals
Solution: NexentaConnect for VMware Horizon View
Platform: VMware
Use Case: High Performance and Availability, VDI Hosting

Benefits:

- Provides fast, stable, easy-to-use and easy-to-manage VDI
- Increases the number of desktops supported by a given configuration
- Allows administrators to profile a VDI deployment before it "goes live" for a full understanding of the resulting performance and efficiency levels
- Supports automatic or manual recovery in the event of a disaster
- Makes it easier for non-IT personnel to activate recovery

Business Overview

A leading Bulgarian provider of healthcare services and information, City Clinic employs 500 people and operates the City Clinic Medical Center Bregalnitsa in Varna and the City Clinic Cardiology Center in Sofia. In addition to providing access to many of the latest methods and technologies in its healthcare facilities, the company has a dedicated team of healthcare professionals delivering world-class patient care.

The City Clinic Medical Center in Varna provides ambulatory, imaging, and surgery services. The City Clinic Cardiology Center in Sofia is already operating at full capacity. It provides a range of outpatient and inpatient services with a focus on cardiovascular diseases including interventional procedures and surgery. City Hospital Sofia is affiliated with Partners Healthcare (Harvard Medical School), the largest integrated healthcare system in the US, and the Arizona Heart Institute. The facility is one of the most comprehensive centers for treatment of cardiovascular diseases, equipped with the latest state-of-the-art infrastructure.

City Clinic has two data centers located in Bulgaria and Strasbourg, France. The Bulgarian data center has 25 physical servers and more than 450 virtual ones. The facility in France, which acts as a back-up for the Bulgarian data center, houses more than 240 servers.

“The solution from Nexenta puts us at the forefront of technology innovation. Not only does it ensure we have the best performance and scalability, at a more affordable price, it takes away vendor lock in issues and allows for a more flexible infrastructure, now and in the future.”

Ivo Andreev

Corporate Communications Manager
City Clinics

Challenges

One of the primary design priorities for the center in Sofia was to create a technology showcase that would differentiate the hospital from its rivals. But City Clinic soon discovered that its existing proprietary storage infrastructure was inadequate for the task ahead.

The company needed to create a platform that its existing (and future) hospitals could access but the incumbent solution was already struggling to provide adequate service. Adding capacity to it was becoming too expensive.

City Clinic started looking for a system that would provide performance and scalability at an affordable price and would not keep it locked into an expensive and inflexible proprietary upgrade path. The chosen system would also need to deliver stability and easy management. City Clinic was also seeking to introduce a VDI implementation to provide access to virtual desktops for 350 doctors in the hospital and a further 50 in external locations.



Solution and Benefits

Solution

After evaluating a number of options with IT partner AOSSIA, City Clinic opted for NexentaStor High Availability (HA) Cluster. IT installed two NexentaStor appliances in the Bulgarian data center with 13TB iSCSI and 25TB NFS storage and another two 10TB (fibre channel and NFS) appliances in France (along with 30TB of EMC storage).

Using the HA functionality, City Clinic established two clusters in its Bulgarian data center and another in the Strasbourg facility to provide back up, disaster recovery, resilience, and reliability. The HA licensed feature makes a NexentaStor implementation highly available and provides automatic or manual recovery in the event of disaster. This is essential for City Clinic because losing data access would be disastrous when hospitals need access to their data all of the time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The hybrid storage pooling features in NexentaStor enable City Clinic to deploy a storage configuration that includes hard disk drives (HDDs) for capacity in tandem with solid state disks (SSDs) for faster data access where required. For the VDI implementation, City Clinic chose NexentaConnect for VMware Horizon View application-specific storage management and acceleration software. Installed on VMware vSphere, the NexentaConnect for VMware Horizon View storage optimizer accelerates storage performance even without the use of SSDs in the configuration or additional memory (RAM).

The net effect is an increase in the number of desktops a given configuration can support while delivering an improved user experience and offloading traffic from the storage network. Tests show up to 38x during I/O storms generated by desktop provisioning, for example.

The solution drives down the cost per desktop, reduces the amount of storage required for a View deployment, and provides real-time visibility and management of individual desktop users using the storage resources.

Benefits

The NexentaStor implementation is highly available and supports automatic or manual recovery in the event of disaster. A user-friendly graphical user interface (GUI) makes it easier for non-IT personnel to activate recovery. NexentaStor features such as inline data reduction, unlimited snapshots, thin provisioning, and hybrid storage pooling are designed to help enterprise customers implement cost-effective, high-performance storage. It also supports a wide range of protocols for unified storage including CIFS, NFS, rsync, iSCSI, Fibre Channel, SATA, and AoE.

In addition to increasing the number of desktops supported by a given configuration, NexentaConnect for VMware Horizon View allows administrators to profile a VDI deployment before it "goes live" which allows for a full understanding of the performance and efficiency levels that will result.



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