

Nordic Medtest Case Study

NexentaStor Passes Nordic Medtest Storage Health Test

Värmland, Sweden
www.nordicmedtest.se
Healthcare



Summary

Challenge: Create a secure, stable, flexible, high performing, open-source SAN solution with no vendor lock-in

Solution: NexentaStor

Platform: Dell

Use Case: High-performance and resilience

Benefits:

- Better capacity, performance, resilience, and scalability at a more affordable price
- Rapid installation, and ease of implementation and management
- Cost avoidance and freedom from vendor lock-in

Business Overview

IT-related failures and problems can have devastating consequences for many businesses, but they can be even more keenly felt in healthcare because they directly affect the welfare of sick and vulnerable people.

In a bid to improve the quality of healthcare IT, the Swedish agency for innovation (Vinnova), in conjunction with local authorities and regions, issued a grant for a project to provide support to develop and establish test beds that would enable innovators to develop, test, and implement various types of innovations in healthcare and care for the elderly.

The three main parties that secured the grant for the project, known as Nordic Medtest, are the Council of Värmland (project owner), Compare (an umbrella organization that provides a community for IT companies to collaborate with each other), and the University of Karlstad. The intention behind Nordic Medtest is to provide an independent and open test center where healthcare organizations (county councils, municipalities and private operators) can develop, test, and safely introduce new and innovative IT services in healthcare in cooperation with IT system and software suppliers.

Nordic Medtest has a full range of testing services that help customers to develop, test, and safely implement IT services in healthcare. They include investigation and procurement services; testing new solutions under development; performance, acceptance, and functional tests; usability testing to evaluate systems; and test environments for national E-health services.

In the words of Torbjörn Wiger, CTO at Compare / Nordic Medtest: "Through collaboration, we combine health benefits and business value that contributes to society. We create opportunities for more and safer IT in healthcare."

“The performance is incredible and management is intuitive and straightforward. We also like being able to use NFS, as opposed to iSCSI, without suffering any reductions in speed.”

Torbjörn Wiger

CTO

Compare / Nordic Medtest

Challenges

The pre-study for the Nordic Medtest project began in September 2012 with a view to securing grant funding by April 2013 and having a technical infrastructure in place for the service by September 2015. Even before the process had begun, Nordic Medtest had been approached by a large customer and was seeking a storage system that would match the customer's requirements.

The company's existing SAN, which it used for the Compare Testlab, was based on open-source software and standard hardware but there were concerns about its stability – particularly the failover functionality – and performance.

Having researched the market, Wiger approached IT provider Layer 8 IT-Services to ask about NexentaStor because he thought it was an interesting and cost-effective solution – and it was also based on open-source software.

“We wanted a safe, stable, flexible, and high performing SAN solution, but we did not want to be locked into a proprietary storage solution,” Wiger explains. “Having an open system on standard server hardware was an important factor for us. When reading about NexentaStor and its open-source Software-Defined Storage (SDS), it felt like perfect match. We didn't go any further. Also we were on a super tight schedule.”

System Configuration

- NexentaStor
- Two Dell PowerEdge R720's
- Dell PowerVault MD3060e storage array
- High Availability configuration

Solution and Benefits

Solution

For the hardware, Layer 8 installed two Dell PowerEdge R720's running NexentaStor interconnected with a Dell PowerVault MD3060e storage array in a High Availability configuration. “Layer 8's Dynamic Storage Platform (DSP) is a bundle of Dell Servers and storage arrays, all powered by NexentaStor. With Dell's high quality hardware together with the quality of their onsite support we can deliver the perfect SDS system,” says Johan Tungström, CEO at Layer 8 IT-Services.

The Layer 8 solution was chosen because it provided enterprise-class features with maximum scalability at a far more cost-effective price than proprietary solutions with less functionality.

The Nordic Medtest project is still in its early stages, but the NexentaStor / Layer 8 system ensures that it will have the capacity and performance to easily meet the requirements when it comes fully into service in September 2015.

Benefits

Nexenta is the global leader in SDS, delivering easy-to-use, secure and ultra low-cost storage software for enterprises. Nexenta solutions are hardware-, protocol-, workload-, and app-agnostic, providing innovation, freedom, and speed for organizations to realize “true” benefits of Software-Defined Infrastructure-Centric cloud computing.

Nordic Medtest has already benefited from NexentaStor's key qualities:

- Better capacity, performance, resilience, and scalability at a more affordable price than the previous system
- Rapid installation, and ease of implementation and management
- Freedom from vendor lock-in, enabling it to avoid expensive proprietary upgrade paths