Case study

Trans-System Keeps on Truckin' with X-IO Virtualized Storage Solution

X-IO delivers resilient storage infrastructure to growing trucking company

business benefits

- Performance issues have been eliminated

- A redundant storage array now provides essential disaster-recovery capabilities

- The business is underpinned by a predicable and reliable storage system

- The system does not require full-time storage administration

- Five-year warranty and competitive pricing deliver low total cost of ownership (TCO)

TRANS-SYSTEM, INC

"X-IO stood out among all other vendors based on the value it was able to provide us."

Cory Staheli, Chief Information Officer, Trans-System, Inc.

introduction

Founded in the early 1970s, Trans-System, Inc. (Trans-System) provides flatbed-trucking services to a wide variety of customers and industries throughout the United States. Working from four subsidiaries, Trans-System delivers innovative, temperature-controlled bulk-and-tanker shipping as well as driver training to its customers.

With business operations growing on the east and west coasts, Trans-System relies heavily on its IT infrastructure to expertly deliver goods to their end destinations.

the challenge

At the core of Trans-System's operations is its mission-critical, corporate infrastructure. Loaded with Microsoft SQL Server and Exchange Server databases, the IT systems keep the company on the road, delivering appropriate flatbed equipment to the right locations.

Recognizing the need to transport these IT systems into the 21st century to support its mission-critical applications, Trans-System brought in CIO Cory Staheli to assess the capabilities of the infrastructure and identify ways to guarantee performance—even when at a high workload.

Staheli soon discovered that the existing storage infrastructure relied on outdated technology and couldn't support any moves to new technology platforms. Determined to take advantage of the benefits of virtualization, the team explored a number of other options, including partnering X-IO ISE storage with Datacore servers.

the solution

The company acquired two X-IO ISE 230 performance storage arrays to provide enough capacity for a full storage overhaul. The ISE arrays were fully integrated into the IT infrastructure in less than two months.

The ISE 200 series performance storage arrays are ideal for data-heavy applications such as SQL Server and Exchange Server because they can provide the high performance necessary for transactions, queries, analytics, and reporting.

The X-IO and DataCore solution is a significant feature for Trans-System because it lets the company pair two ISE storage arrays to provide disaster-recovery

capabilities and guaranteed business continuity. All write operations on either side of the pairing are replicated before the operation is even acknowledged.

X-IO provides the ideal balance of price, performance, and capacity to address Trans-System's requirements. The system has been up and running for almost a year with no performance issues.

the result

The implementation of the X-IO solution was a painless process for Trans-System, despite the company's aging on-site equipment. The ISE 230s have delivered the capacity and availability that Trans-System needs as its operations expand across the United States and as the value of data increases. X-IO makes it easy to add capacity when required, with little fuss or disruption. This capability has given Trans-System peace of mind should it wish to increase the capacity of its storage environment in the future.

X-IO's ease of use and disaster-recovery capabilities are two more big benefits to Trans-System. Because the ISE solutions are intuitive and simple to use, a full-time staff member isn't required to monitor or support the storage. The solution remains predictable and fast, even at full capacity, so there's no need for administration or management of data. In addition, the ISE arrays deliver the advertised, rated performance for their entire life cycle, irrespective of whether 1 percent or 99 percent of the available capacity is being consumed. Other storage arrays can use only 60 percent of capacity before the performance starts to degrade.

Additionally, management is reduced by X-IO's zero-touch technology, which enables the ISE arrays to repair themselves with no manual service required over five or more years. X-IO's five-year warranty is another important differentiator; rival products offer only three-year warranties at the same price point.

Cory Staheli, Chief Information Officer at Trans-System, said, *"X-IO provided us with a solution that fulfils our need for predicable storage capacity and very little management intervention. The solution also provides high density and efficiency, delivering great operational savings as it uses less space and energy than other arrays. Thanks to the ISE boxes, we now have strong confidence in our storage infrastructure, which is crucial at a time of growth."*

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> *Cory Staheli, Chief Information Officer, Trans-System, Inc.*

business challenges

- Performance bottlenecks were occurring
- Virtualization was strained by the speed of the existing infrastructure and a lack of capacity
- Company's disaster-recovery capabilities did not meet its storage performance requirements
- The system had to be easy to manage to allow the IT team to focus on innovation
- Solution had to be compatible with the company's existing corporate infrastructure

solution

Servers:
- DataCore QLE2562 (2)

Hypervisor:
- VMware

Operating System:
- Windows Server
- Linux

Applications:
- Microsoft SQL Server
- Microsoft Exchange Server
- Terminal Services

Storage:
- X-IO ISE 230 (2)
- Data replication provided by DataCore