




Maxta Storage Platform

Enterprise Storage Redefined

Maxta Delivers Enterprise-Class Capabilities and Storage Performance to Enable Local Government's VDI Implementation

Overview

Located in the province of Limburg in the Netherlands, the town of Venray houses a diverse range of shops, historical and cultural treasures, and industrial enterprises. With easy access to a nearby airport, river harbor and the A73 motorway, Venray has become a third-party logistics center for companies such as Flextronics, Herbalife, Inalfa and Xerox. One of 403 regular municipalities of the Netherlands, Venray's government is responsible for administering the established policies and regulations for its 43,000 residents.

As an organization, the local government of Venray is very dynamic and willing to adopt new technologies that enable the changes desired by city management. To better support its 450 full- and part-time employees, the IT department was charged with implementing VMware Horizon View, a virtual desktop infrastructure solution that simplifies desktop management and provides users with what they need, when they need it. However, the SAN storage array the city government had in place was not sized to carry the VDI load and didn't have enough IOPS to allow IT management to place full desktops on the system. Because it could not afford to replace the SAN or purchase a second SAN unit to provide the support it needed, Venray began to look for alternative solutions.

Key Customer Requirements

Because its SAN hardware had not yet reached its end of life and they didn't have the budget to purchase a new SAN unit, IT personnel at Venray began to look at software-defined solutions that would provide the performance and capacity needed to properly implement the VDI environment. The requirements for a new solution included:

1. Central storage for new VMware Horizon View environment
2. No single point of failure
3. Low latency so that users with VMware Horizon View desktops weren't compromised
4. Simplicity of storage management

A search of the features and functions needed for the VDI implementation led to several possible options. After comparing products, it was determined that Maxta's highly resilient, scalable distributed VM Storage platform (MxSP) was the best fit.

"The budget was very limited and another solution was not available so we began a search for software-defined storage offerings," said Edwin Griesheimer, IT advisor for the city government of Venray.



“Maxta looked interesting. The features Maxta offered fit perfectly compared to other software-based storage. Its storage redundancy over multiple nodes was a very compelling feature. And unlike complex disk solutions, Maxta was easy to use. There’s no need for expensive storage courses; Maxta can be learned within an hour!”

Maxta Eliminates Need for Storage Arrays and Storage Management, Minimizing Cost of VDI Deployments

Maxta Storage delivers flash performance and hard disk capacity for VDI environments. Maxta Storage leverages flash for both read and write-back caching delivering the performance required during boot storms or login storms. By converging applications, server virtualization, and storage on standard servers, Maxta Storage eliminates the need for storage arrays and storage management minimizing the cost of VDI deployments. Additionally, capacity optimization features such as thin provisioning, in-line compression and de-duplication delivers capacity efficiency further reducing the cost per desktop. Unlimited number of capacity, time and performance efficient snapshots and zero-copy clones provide the ability to create thousands of virtual desktops. The snapshots and clones are VM-centric eliminating the need for managing storage constructs such as LUNs and volumes thus dramatically simplifying management. Maxta Storage delivers the performance and enterprise-class capabilities without sacrificing end-user experience.

Business Benefits

With the implementation of Maxta’s software platform into its existing storage architecture, Venray has been able to:

1. Avoid a costly upgrade and expansion of its SAN to accommodate the implementation of VDI and protect the investment of its existing storage solution
2. Eliminate single point of failures to provide ultimate data availability and rapid recovery of user desktops by replicating data across the entire virtualization cluster
3. Dramatically simplify IT by allowing all data services to be managed at VM-level granularity through a single pane of glass
4. Improve performance through the implementation of SSD read/write caching that significantly reduces cost over hardware-only solutions
5. Gain enterprise-class functionality like thin provisioning, snapshots and clones not found in other software-defined storage offerings

Customer solution at a glance

Primary applications

VMware Horizon View 5.3 based on vSphere 5.5

IT infrastructure

- 50 TB SAN storage
- vSphere 5.1 Environment
- 450 virtual machines

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- Maxta Storage Platform (MxSP)

Summary

By implementing the Maxta Storage Platform, the town of Venray was able to leverage a storage solution that complements its investment in server virtualization without compromising enterprise-class data services. Rather than expanding its existing SAN to handle the VDI load needed to support its new VMware Horizon View environment, Venray was able to address its storage and storage redundancy requirements as well as gaining the performance it needed through the addition of MxSP. Maxta delivered the ease of management and enterprise-class functionality Venray was searching for without sacrificing the end-user experience.