

Maxta Storage Platform

Thinking Outside the Storage Box

Maxta Cleans Up, Protects, and Maintains PROSOCO's Storage Simply and Reliably

MAXTA CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY: PROSOCO



PROSOCO

PROSOCO Deploys Maxta as Storage Solution for their Primary Data Center

Overview

PROSOCO, founded in 1939, is a national manufacturer of products for cleaning, protecting and maintaining concrete; making building envelopes air- and water-tight; and cleaning, protecting and restoring new and existing masonry buildings. PROSOCO has offices and production facilities in Lawrence, Kansas, with sales and technical support staff throughout the United States.

“I’m a big fan of Maxta,” said Tim Norris, IT Manager. “Maxta is so much more efficient. I don’t have to check on it constantly like I have to with our old SAN.”

PROSOCO’s IT team is headed by manager Tim Norris who is charged with ensuring PROSOCO’s 60 on-site IT users and 20 remote IT users are amply outfitted with the right applications and back-office solutions.

Prior to the installation of Maxta®, the PROSOCO IT environment was composed of the following:

- Data Base servers, MS SQL servers, web servers, standalone servers
- Industry-specific ERP for regulation
- Microsoft Hyper-V virtualization iSCSI SAN with 20 terabytes of storage

Norris said that while the virtual setup was only two years old, he noticed strange things happening such as the SAN going offline. Suddenly, he realized that he only had sporadic storage which would disappear and reappear intermittently. The worst part is once the SAN crashed, it could take hours to reboot the system – which stopped many business operations.

Norris knew it was time for a change.





Time for a Change

As the company started to grow and look toward opening new offices, Norris said his current IT environment needed to change. Norris said he also wanted to virtualize the entire environment as there were physical limitations with their space. “Our environment was not big enough to support 30 additional servers,” Norris said. “So I knew it was time to completely virtualize the data center.”

Tired of all the downtime and constant challenges, Norris knew he needed to drastically change his environment. He pondered the possibility of installing another brand of SAN and had read there were some good results with different vendors – but overall that was not what was needed.

“What I like about Maxta is that it is one giant storage pool,” said PROSOCO’s IT Manager, Tim Norris. “Unlike iSCSI which gives you the solution in small chunks and makes you worry about how many VMs will fit into one storage pool, Maxta is one big hunk of storage. Simple and streamlined.”

Norris ultimately concluded that the data center needed a hyper-converged solution that could offer simplicity, flexibility and scalability. He looked at EMC, Nutanix, SimpliVity, and Maxta since all these vendors had good coverage. While researching hyper-converged solutions, Norris came across several positive references to Maxta in articles and the blogosphere. But it was blogger Trevor Potts who finally convinced Norris that Maxta was worth a look.

“Trevor gave me the positives of Maxta and convinced me it was worth a try,” Norris said.

Key Customer Requirements

- Ease of use
- All-in-one solution
- Snapshots for testing
- Reliability
- Must be able to efficiently run the back office applications

Norris found Maxta’s MxSP™ software to be the right solution for PROSOCO and installed several Dell R730 XD servers with 37 TB of server-side storage.

Norris appreciated the overall simplicity of Maxta’s MxSP VM-centric solution and found that he was able to reduce IT management time – as the solution performed flawlessly. Maxta also offered capacity optimization to help the IT team with their storage needs. Maxta provided PROSOCO with the flexibility to hyper-converge on any x86 server, using their preferred hardware devices, and eliminating the need for complex and expensive storage arrays.

Overall, Norris was thrilled with the simplicity and reliability of Maxta: “What I like about Maxta is that it is one giant storage pool – unlike iSCSI which gives you the solution in small chunks and makes you worry about how many VMs will fit into one storage pool – Maxta is one big hunk of storage. Simple and streamlined.”

Business Benefits

The business benefits were apparent almost immediately. Before Norris even fully deployed the Maxta solution – he learned that with Maxta, there is no downtime during server maintenance or upgrades. This instilled a peace of mind that allowed Norris to focus on more strategic projects to help grow the company rather than worry about shutting down the whole compute system for hours at a time to reboot his servers.

“Maxta is so much more efficient – I don’t have to check on it constantly like I have to with our old SAN,” said Norris.

Norris was also impressed with the level of service that his Maxta team provided. “Before I installed Maxta, the team provided me with instructions and offered to help me onsite.” Norris has yet to use Maxta support services however. “Maxta runs so smoothly that I haven’t yet had the need to call Maxta support for help.”

Going forward, PROSOCO will be expanding its offices to a second location in December 2015. Norris says he will look into replicating the Maxta environment with several more nodes.

“I’m a big fan of Maxta,” said Norris.

About Maxta

MxSP software and MaxDeploy™ Appliances provide companies the flexibility to hyper-converge on any x86 server, any compute abstraction layer, and any combination of storage devices eliminating the need for complex and expensive storage arrays. With Maxta, enterprise customers can build private and public clouds based on any cloud orchestration software. Maxta provides unlimited scalability allowing customers to scale up, scale out, or independently scale compute and storage.



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