

PEOPLECLICK AUTHORIA

Talent-management company transitions to virtualized IT using EMC VNX



ESSENTIALS

Challenges

- Merger of two companies required IT infrastructure consolidation
- Rapid data growth increased demand for performance and efficiency

Solution

- EMC VNX series unified storage

Key benefits

- Fast installation—VNX was unpacked, racked, configured, and running in two hours
- Automated optimization for high performance of SQL databases
- Smaller storage footprint saves space in data center
- Enhanced storage management frees time for infrastructure enhancements

Peopleclick Authoria is transforming talent management through best-in-class suite technology and expertise. With experience in all areas of talent management, vendor management, and workforce compliance and diversity, Peopleclick Authoria empowers organizations to build workforces that deliver high-performance results.

As the largest private talent-management vendor in the HCM space, Peopleclick Authoria is creating value and driving shareholder return for over 2,400 customers, more than 60 percent of Fortune 100 firms in 214 countries and territories around the world.

In 2010, Peopleclick and Authoria merged to create Peopleclick Authoria. The consolidation efforts included the merger of the two companies' information infrastructures. The company's IT infrastructure hosts Peopleclick Authoria data and applications accessed remotely by customers and its internal operations.

"We have much more data to manage due to ongoing business growth and the merger of Peopleclick and Authoria," says Christy Turner, Peopleclick Authoria's senior systems engineer. "Demand for better IT performance and efficiency has increased. To ensure the success of our clients, it's very important to have a high-performance, stable, and efficient environment."

IT REQUIREMENTS IN TRANSITION

Peopleclick Authoria's existing EMC® CLARiiON® storage infrastructure supports all of its key applications, including Oracle RAC and Microsoft SQL databases. However, with the companies' initiative to virtualize more of its critical applications and a desire to reduce the amount of storage management performed manually, the IT group requires new levels of simplicity, performance, and efficiency. The company welcomed the opportunity to beta test the EMC VNX™ series unified storage system. Almost immediately upon installation of the VNX system, Peopleclick Authoria knew they now had a powerful yet easy-to-use unified storage device with simple, efficient, and centralized management using EMC Unisphere™.

STORAGE. CLICK. DONE.

As soon as the shipping carton arrived, Turner was struck by the ease of installation. "To my surprise, the VNX was extremely easy to set up and configure. Once I unpacked the VNX, it was racked, running, and being managed by Unisphere within a couple of hours."

Peopleclick Authoria also was extremely impressed with the time savings enabled by full featured functionality of the VNX, such as Fully Automated Storage Tiering for Virtual Pools (FAST VP). The FAST VP solution provides fully automated capacity tiering, ensuring that data is served from the most cost-effective drive based on price/performance needs of the data set.

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CHRISTY TURNER
SENIOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER

“We have five times as much data compared to three years ago,” Turner explains. “It gets tedious making sure our storage utilization and bus activity are balanced and there’s no contention with disks in our RAID groups. VNX, FAST VP, and FAST Cache will handle much of that manual effort automatically. That’s going to free many hours for engineering and me to be proactive and efficiently manage our storage as our business grows.”

Turner, who had used EMC Navisphere® management software for CLARiiON, adjusted quickly to the EMC Unisphere interface for VNX.

“The Unisphere interface is very intuitive,” says Turner. “Provisioning storage is straightforward and it’s easy to find any of the functions. With a few clicks, you can manage your storage pools, RAID groups, and LUNs. In engineering, we’re constantly learning and adapting to new technologies. Getting used to Unisphere was one of the easiest transitions I’ve ever made.”

MANAGING APPLICATION BURSTS DYNAMICALLY

VNX FAST Cache functionality will optimize performance for Peopleclick Authoria’s most demanding applications.

“With FAST Cache, our storage will be automatically optimized to quickly and efficiently address high bursts of I/O in our more intensive application environments,” states Turner. “I’m anticipating much faster response times for our SQL transactional databases.”

The transition to managing virtual storage pools instead of RAID groups is also expected to boost performance, according to Turner. “The automated storage tiering and sub-LUN management with VNX will give us higher performance because our I/O will be managed in a more dynamic, efficient fashion.”

EFFICIENCY OF UNIFIED STORAGE

VNX’s ability to unify block, file, and object-level storage in a single solution contributes to significant improvements in efficiency.

Turner explains, “We manage multiple data streams across development, QA, production, and disaster recovery. Pulling everything into one storage frame is going to make storage and management much more affordable and efficient. The VNX architecture also provides more usable capacity in a smaller footprint. With the VNX system’s compression and file deduplication features, we’ll eliminate much of the redundancy in our virtualized infrastructure, translating into substantial savings for our data center.”

The automated storage tiering with FAST VP will also increase efficiency by ensuring application requirements are met with the appropriate speed disk, such as Flash (highest performing drives), SAS (high performing drives), or near-line SAS (less expensive highest capacity drives).

ADVANCING THE INFRASTRUCTURE

Peopleclick Authoria is comfortable making the transition to the VNX systems because it is the most compelling product offering to hit the midrange space in a very long time. “We’re excited that EMC is bringing this product to market—we know we can’t get anything like this anywhere else,” Turner adds.

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In addition to increasing efficiency and performance, VNX is also expected to provide an important strategic advantage to Peopleclick Authoria’s IT organization.

“VNX’s automation of so many manual tasks will free us to work on some projects that have been on the back burner for some time. We’re finally going to have an opportunity to investigate file deduplication, compression, and other technologies that will help us get more value from our storage infrastructure and better serve the demands of the business.”

CONTACT US

To learn more about how EMC products, services, and solutions can help solve your business and IT challenges, contact your local representative or authorized reseller—or visit us at www.EMC.com.

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