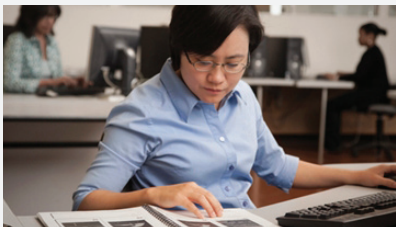


SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY COLLEGE

EMC VNXe provides a simple and efficient storage management platform for a 24/7 educational curriculum



ESSENTIALS

Challenge

- To find a new storage solution that would provide higher efficiency and more flexibility while at the same time being easy to use

Solutions

- EMC VNXe
- VMware
- EMC Unisphere
- Local Protection Suite

Key benefits

- Reduce storage management time by 50 percent
- Out-of-the-box to deployed in less than one hour
- 18 month payback
- Unified storage designed for a virtual environment
 - Migrate existing data with no downtime
 - Fully integrated with VMware—create virtual machines in one step
 - Increase storage utilization

BUSINESS OVERVIEW

San Joaquin Valley College (www.sjvc.edu), one of California's most successful private junior colleges, prepares students for work in medical, technical, and business fields through 10 statewide campuses and an online program. With over 20 program options, students are prepared to work in a number of different fields through classes that emphasize practical, hands-on learning. SJVC's medical programs are their most popular, exposing graduates to a variety of in-demand occupations including nursing, clinical medical assisting, and surgical technology.

SJVC's IT department provides a critical function in delivering 24/7 access to educational content to the college's population of over 8,000 students and 1,100 teachers and administrators. Supported by an IT Network and Systems Operations Department of just three people, SJVC sustains a diverse and geographically dispersed educational community of students and educators. With limited human and financial resources, SJVC delivers an IT infrastructure that is always available, and can scale to meet the college's growing data storage requirements.

THE CHALLENGE: AFFORDABLE HIGH AVAILABILITY, AND SCALABILITY

A growing community of users along with increasing storage demands forced SJVC to move on from dedicated application servers and direct attached storage to its first SAN. SJVC Network Administrator Joseph Junio and Network Architect Nick Heryford decided it was critical to find a new storage solution that would provide higher efficiency and more flexibility while at the same time being easy to use.

Both Junio and Heryford recognized that they needed an application server and storage infrastructure that was tightly integrated and able to support an ever-changing application base. "Our existing solution only supported iSCSI and wasn't integrated with VMware®," Junio explains. "Setting up virtual machines (VMs) was a two-step process that took a significant amount of time and we saw a lot of limitations with the user interface. We knew that if we were going to keep up with our students' and professors' insatiable appetites for information retention, we needed a storage solution that was exceptionally easy to manage, scalable, and flexible."

"Flexibility was a key concern," says Heryford. "In our previous environment, the storage array had an upper limit and required us to purchase multiple arrays just to add more storage. Adding physical boxes unnecessarily compounded data protection and information availability."

Junio adds, "Everything about our old storage solution added up to increased cost and management, all things we want to reduce, not increase."

THE SOLUTION: EMC VNXe

SJVC considered a number of vendors including NetApp, Compellent, and EMC. “We did quite a bit of research and considered a number of options before we made a short list. We carefully considered NetApp before ultimately choosing the EMC® VNXe® series predominantly for its ease-of-use, best-in-class integration with VMware, and scalability,” says Heryford.

The VNXe series provides small and mid-size organizations the advanced features that were previously out of reach to SMB budgets. It is fully automated, application-aware storage with efficiency features such as file deduplication, compression, and local/remote data protection.

“Our out-of-the-box experience was easy and foolproof and took us less than one hour to deploy, which based on our research is very uncommon,” states Junio enthusiastically. “The VNXe came with one sheet of paper that said do this, this, and this. That’s what we did. Everything was clearly laid out and intuitive. We migrated 80 production-level virtual machines to our VNXe. These VMs were for our higher tier applications and relevant data supporting students (work files and shared folders), business applications, the college’s Online Degree Program, and courseware. We moved all of this seamlessly and without interruption.

“We migrated our existing 80 production VMs to VNXe with no downtime or hiccups. We never had a moment’s interruption. The VNXe Wizards, with embedded application best practices, ensured everything was configured correctly the first time. And we lever these Wizards for on-going system management which now takes us half the time of our previous storage.”

NICK HERYFORD
NETWORK ARCHITECT, SJVC

“The integration of VNXe with VMware, together with EMC Unisphere™ and vCenter™ management tools, now allows us to create new virtual machines right from our vCenter console in one step; VNXe increases our efficiency and productivity. Everything is in one place, and you can quickly see the entire environment and shared storage. It removes the step of having to go into the physical environment to provision storage. With VNXe, everything is very fast.”

Heryford concludes, “This ease-of-use cannot be over-emphasized. It’s as close to management-free as you can get. Simplicity, flexibility, and availability are all critical when running a 24/7 operation. If a student wants to take a class at 3:00 a.m., the online curriculum and courseware have to be ready and running at peak performance. With a payback of 18 months, we’ve exceeded all of our objectives.”

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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