

ALTALINK MEETS INCREASED POWER DEMAND WITH VBLOCK

Moving to a Converged Infrastructure on a Dell EMC Vblock System simplified operations and ensured AltaLink's ability to provide customers with reliable service and minimized outages.



Energy

Canada

AltaLink.com

Business needs

AltaLink was concerned that Alberta's increasing electricity demand would exceed the capabilities of its aging server and storage infrastructure. By consolidating its multivendor legacy systems onto a Dell EMC VBlock System, AltaLink increased business agility with a virtualized converged infrastructure and improved performance of critical business applications.

Solutions at a glance

- Vblock System
- SAP, Esri arcGIS, and Bentley ProjectWise, Microsoft Exchange, SQL Server, and SharePoint.

Business results

- Agile Converged infrastructure keeps pace with ongoing business growth
- 20% performance increase with SAP and other tier-1 applications
- Reduced data center footprint and power usage
- Simplified administration and support

20%

increase in tier-1 application performance



25%

less time spent on administration



Alberta's growing population and thriving economy created increased power demand, requiring AltaLink to continually add and upgrade transmission lines and substations to ensure reliable service and a minimum of outages. Following years of computer storage growth to support the business, AltaLink was concerned that future demand would exceed the capabilities of its aging server and storage infrastructure. Maintaining systems from multiple vendors also had become costly and time-consuming. And rapid business expansion created increased pressure to improve time-to-market of new business projects.

By consolidating its multivendor legacy systems onto a Vblock System, AltaLink has increased business agility with a virtualized converged infrastructure while improving performance of critical business applications. On the efficiency front, the Vblock System reduced data center footprint and power usage, and simplified administration and support.

The challenge

Managing IT systems that support an expanding landscape of transmission equipment and assets, along with complex geospatial data and map images, drove extensive growth in AltaLink's IT infrastructure. This has resulted in a disparate collection of HP and IBM servers, as well as older IBM and EMC storage systems.

With its virtualization efforts limited by the complexity of its infrastructure, AltaLink's server room was running out of space and storage systems had reached capacity limits. The legacy environment also made it difficult and time-consuming for IT to deploy resources for new business projects.

Moving to a converged infrastructure

After considering IBM offerings, AltaLink found nothing comparable to the Vblock Systems converged infrastructure.

Preferring a pre-engineered, pre-tested solution, AltaLink consolidated all its HP, IBM, and earlier-generation EMC production systems onto a Vblock System 300.

Engaging the mission-critical applications in production. These include SAP, Esri arcGIS, and Bentley ProjectWise, as well as Microsoft Exchange, SQL Server, and SharePoint.

Thanks to the Vblock System, AltaLink has an agile infrastructure that can keep pace with its ongoing business growth while delivering higher performance and improved efficiency.

For example, SAP benchmark tests running on the Vblock System compared to the previous infrastructure showed a performance increase of 20 percent. Similar gains were realized for Bentley and AltaLink's other tier-one applications.

“With Vblock Systems, we're able to deploy resources for new business projects faster than ever before on our IBM infrastructure. That helps us continually improve environments supporting AltaLink's business projects and teams.”

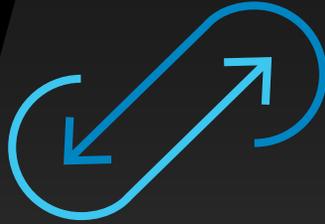
Matt Laba
Manager of Enterprise Architecture, AltaLink

New deployments in
hours
or days, rather
than weeks or
months



NO

wrestling with
multiple vendors
or finger-pointing



“Right from the get-go, Dell EMC Professional Services brought in their A team to get us into production quickly. We were really impressed with their fast response and quality of service.”

Matt Laba
Manager of Enterprise Architecture, AltaLink

The Vblock System has also enabled AltaLink to accelerate deployment of new environments for large projects and core business services—whether using enhanced geospatial data to improve asset tracking accuracy or implementing tools to streamline financial reporting.

While before, significant IT staff resources and weeks or months of effort were required, now AltaLink can deploy new environments within hours or days with minimal hands-on support.

In addition, a factory-integrated converged infrastructure—rather than multiple separate systems—has resulted in fewer incidents, improving uptime. This also reduced the number of administrators required to support AltaLink’s infrastructure by 25 percent, allowing the remaining IT staff to work on more critical business projects.

One vendor, one call

AltaLink especially appreciates having one vendor to call upon, whether for upgrades or support. While in the past, AltaLink had to wrestle with multiple vendors, often resulting in finger-pointing, now it has just one number to call to address the entire infrastructure.

As AltaLink looks ahead, the value of its relationship with Dell EMC will continue to grow. AltaLink plans to deploy a second Vblock System for disaster recovery. Dell EMC Vblock Data Protection enable continuous data availability and workload mobility across multiple sites.

With Dell EMC, AltaLink has a nearly limitless resource for enhancing IT performance, efficiency, and agility to support its long-range business objectives.



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