d-Wise aids life sciences firms in their quest to move clinical treatments through development and trials with increased speed and efficiency.

**Business needs**

d-Wise, a provider of advanced statistical analysis solutions and managed services, helps life sciences firms accelerate their drug development and clinical trials. These solutions require high-performance, affordable infrastructure to handle data-intensive computations while making it easier for clinical statisticians to derive insights.

**Solutions at a glance**

- Dell EMC Isilon Scale-Out NAS
- Dell EMC PowerEdge servers
- VMware

**Business results**

- Improved analyst efficiency and accelerated cycles of learning with seamless access to insights across Linux and Windows environments
- Strict adherence to complex regulatory compliance with plug-and-play authentication and user controls
- Able to do more with less; achieved >100:1 ratio of analysts to support staff due to an enterprise solution that is simple to manage
- Improved agility and achieved fast ROI with up to 50% faster deployments and reduced maintenance overhead

"Isilon makes multi-protocol support so easy, while other systems make you sweat it."

Joey Leveille
Senior Consultant, d-Wise

50% less time to deploy compared to the SAN
New drug discoveries offer compelling medical treatments, so life sciences firms are under more pressure than ever to navigate clinical trials and development quickly and efficiently. In parallel, they must adhere to the highest quality standards.

Enter d-Wise, which provides analytics solutions based on SAS Grid Manager and other software for statistical computing and clinical and metadata repositories. Initially, d-Wise’s use of a storage area network (SAN) for its hosted SAS analytics solution presented integration challenges and made it difficult for users to access data across different environments.

d-Wise turned to Dell EMC Isilon storage to provide hosted SAS analytics as a service to customers. On top of Isilon, they run Dell EMC PowerEdge blade servers in a VMware virtual environment at a primary site in Raleigh, North Carolina, and a backup site in Manchester, U.K. Data analysts, statisticians and other users access d-Wise solutions to generate modeling and simulation algorithms for drug discovery and clinical trials.

**Simplified multi-protocol support improves analyst efficiency**

With Isilon’s multi-protocol support, d-Wise can run SAS software in a Linux environment while allowing users to easily navigate files with Windows Explorer from any desktop or server. Joey Leveille, senior consultant at d-Wise, explains, “Isilon makes multi-protocol support so easy, while other systems make you sweat it. Isilon does it all in a single box and avoids the hassle and expense of a separate file server. It also helps clinical statisticians analyze and prepare data faster since they don’t have to deal with file transfers.”

**Simplified compliance, faster deployment, better ROI**

With uniform authorization and access control, Isilon automates complex security requirements for regulatory compliance in the life sciences industry. “Adding and authenticating users is so simple that we can hand off these functions to the customers, so they have more control and flexibility,” says Leveille. “Our own IT staff also spends less time managing Isilon compared to our previous SAN solution.”

In addition, d-Wise found it took up to 50 percent less time to deploy compared to the SAN. In fact, racking four Isilon nodes and starting up the cluster took only two days. Isilon SyncIQ software, which automates data replication for disaster recovery, also saves time. All in all, the easy manageability of the Isilon solution contributes to a 100:1 ratio of analysts to support staff.

Leveille says, “Spending less time on deployment and support reduces long-term maintenance costs and helps us get our ROI faster.”

**Perfect balance: Performance and efficiency**

SAS specifies stringent performance requirements for hardware running its statistical analysis software. “With Isilon, we’re able to satisfy SAS performance requirements without any issues and keep our solution efficient and affordable,” Leveille says. “Add in the time and cost savings associated with Isilon and we’re able to deliver a faster-running SAS solution at a more competitive cost.”