Data Dynamics

Global Financial Institution Migrates to NetApp Data ONTAP using StorageX

Quick Look:

Industry	Opportunity	Solution	Value Added
Banking Financial Services	Financial institution with over 6,000 offices across more than 80 countries was migrating from legacy NAS platforms to NetApp Data ONTAP. In addition, they had Microsoft DFS providing an abstraction layer for their CIFS estate at certain sites. The customer wanted to automate the migration process and ensure that the DFS links would be updated without manual intervention.	The customer determined that StorageX 7.6 software platform was the best fit because it provided a centralized means to manage CIFS and NFS migrations while ensuring data and security information was migrated without risk. The DFS management functionality within StorageX provided the customer an automated means of updating the DFS links.	StorageX 7.6 delivered: • Single pane view to manage CIFS and NFS migrations • Consistency across a global footprint • Retargeting of DFS namespace links to reflect new target • Copying of security and permissions

The banking and financial services industry has seen a large consolidation take place since the financial crisis in 2008. As such, the mergers and divestures have led to consolidation and extraction of technology infrastructure associated with the various business units. This paired with organic growth driven by operational activities has led to a massive expanse of data and, in turn, the amount of storage that is required to manage it.

Opportunity
A financial institution with over 250,000 employees spread across 80 countries was looking at transforming their NAS infrastructure to a new platform and drive consistency across their global footprint. Their legacy hardware with over a petabyte in data needed to be migrated to the NetApp Data ONTAP storage platform. The transition from legacy storage to a new platform induces risks and the customer wanted to ensure minimal impact to users while establishing standards and driving consistency across their global footprint. For prior migrations they utilized host-based tools for copying CIFS or NFS platform storage. In addition, the customer had Microsoft DFS (Distributed File System) sporadically deployed in their environment and wanted to ensure that in those spots where it did exist, all DFS links would be updated to reflect the new target storage.

Solution
The customer selected StorageX as the migration and DFS management software of choice because it provided the required API integration with NetApp Data ONTAP, had the ability to copy security and permissions, and could automatically update the DFS namespace links. The StorageX platform could be deployed regionally to drive consistency within the global footprint. Then, StorageX would remain in place in places where DFS namespace management was needed to create automated failover for disaster recovery purposes.

Value Added
Single Pane View
Rather than leverage host-based copy tools and an arsenal of scripts, StorageX provided a single software platform to drive the discovery, planning, and migration of both CIFS and NFS based storage. Utilizing a user friendly and intuitive UI, StorageX gave the storage architect an easy means of discovering changes in the infrastructure, accommodating for them through the console, and driving policy-based migrations that were repeatable and reduced risk in the process. There no longer needed manually created scripts that only the scripter understood. Once policies were created in StorageX, the architect could create other users within StorageX to utilize the software with limited-to-no knowledge transfer required.

Global Standardization
Like most enterprise organizations, the customer had grown over the years and there was no global consistency for their storage infrastructure. This recent migration provided an impetus to drive standards and efficiencies across their global footprint with StorageX. The customer deployed a single instance of StorageX in each major geographical location and deployed Replication Agents (RA) in each data center. Policies were created in the StorageX server and sent to the RA that drove the data movement based on the policy settings. This automated the process and ensured that the infrastructure deployed was consistent across over a dozen data centers globally.

DFS Link Retargeting
The customer utilized StorageX to retarget DFS links to reflect the new storage and subsequently manage the DFS namespace; providing ongoing automated failover from primary storage to secondary utilizing NetApp SnapMirror for replication.

Solution Components

StorageX Licensed Features

- ☒ Migration
- ☒ Replication
- ☒ Discovery
- ☒ Reporting
- ☒ Disaster Recovery
- ☒ Namespace

Managed Resources

- ☐ Microsoft Windows Server
- ☐ EMC Isilon
- ☒ EMC VNX
- ☐ EMC VNXe
- ☐ NetApp 7
- ☒ NetApp 8 in 7 Mode
- ☒ NetApp 8 in Cluster Mode
- ☐ Red Hat Enterprise Linux

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