

Insurance Firm Migrates from HDS HNAS to EMC Isilon with StorageX

Quick Look:

Industry	Opportunity	Solution	Value Added
Insurance	Customer has thousands of remote users accessing millions of files at any given point and time. The customer selected EMC Isilon NAS as the system of choice to manage a subset of their unstructured file data. To reach this goal the customer required a migration from legacy Hitachi HNAS systems to EMC Isilon with limited disruption to their end users.	EMC Isilon, after testing various products, determined that the StorageX software platform would provide the customer with the best performance during cutover. In addition, StorageX provides a single pane view to ensure data and security information migrate correctly across both CIFS and NFS protocols.	StorageX 7.6 delivered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal disruption to the business operations during cutover as per the SLA with the customer. • A single software platform for both CIFS and NFS migrations. • Scalability to complete the migrations within a given timeframe.

Insurance companies generate multiple forms of data during business operations, from risk analysis and actuarial tables to end customer quote generation, billing and claim documentation, and underwriting policies. All of these operations generate millions of files that need to be highly available for their thousands of users.

Opportunity

A Fortune 50 insurance firm with over 18,000 agents across the United States and Canada was looking to retire and migrate off of some of their legacy HDS HNAS storage systems. After thorough testing and analysis, the insurance

firm selected EMC Isilon as the platform of choice for a subset of their storage footprint. The primary challenge the customer faced was they had limited outage windows that they could provide for migration so as to maintain maximum connectivity for their users. Also, the customer's environment contained millions of small files and large numbers of nested directories cascading within their directory structure, making the analysis of the metadata points that much more complex and time consuming. Manual, host-based migration platforms required outage windows that exceeded the disruption time available and the manual

processes meant assuming a greater risk than the customer could accept.

Solution

EMC Isilon selected the StorageX 7.6 software platform as the migration software of choice. StorageX was the only software platform that met the customer's requirements in terms of analysis and final replication to meet the required cutover window. The customer was able to leverage the power of the StorageX policy and replication engines to efficiently replicate data between both CIFS and NFS platforms transparently while minimizing the downtime during the cutover. StorageX

“StorageX reduced the impact to the field agents by performing the final sync 5 to 7 times faster than other products that were tested.”

Senior Solutions Architect

was able to copy the data onto the EMC Isilon environment without impacting existing users during initial and incremental replication and ensured that the permissions on the source were copied successfully to the new Isilon target environment.

Value Added

Reduced Outage Window

Each minute a field agent cannot access policy information, enter claim details, or leverage any other essential files, can have a substantial direct and indirect impact on business operations. Because of this, the downtime required for migration was one of the customer's largest factors of concern. StorageX provided the customer with the ability to do the final cutover 5 to 7 times faster than traditional host-based copying methodologies. This drastically reduced the impact of the migration to the business and, in turn, led to quicker transition

and adoption of the EMC Isilon hardware platform.

Single Pane View

Maintaining consistency and only having a single software platform to manage both CIFS and NFS migrations were of paramount importance to the customer. StorageX provides a single pane view for both protocols and can migrate security information for each to ensure users and clients can access data as expected after the migration is complete.

Consistency

The customer needed to migrate their data at multiple locations all while managing bandwidth in order to avoid network contention with their normal business operations. StorageX provided the customer the ability to deploy 32 replication agents to perform policy-based copying in parallel to maximize data movement without exceeding a bandwidth utilization threshold

at a per-replication level. In addition, the ability for a single storage engineer to create and manage the replication policies drove consistency within the storage infrastructure.

Solution Components

StorageX Licensed Features

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

Managed Resources

- HDS HNAS
- 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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