



About Customer

The Motion Picture Industry Pension and Health Plans (MPI) is a nonprofit that administers health and retirement benefits. It serves approximately 150,000 members from over 30 film industry unions and guilds, as well as their dependents.

www.mpiphp.org

Geo

North America

Industry

Financial Services

Solution Area

Accelerate Core Applications
 Modernize Data Protection

Pure Storage®

Products in Use

FlashBlade®
 FlashBlade//S™
 FlashArray//X™
 Evergreen//Forever™
 Pure1®

About Commvault

Commvault Cloud leads the way in cyber resilience—the industry's first platform for true cloud data security that empowers businesses to secure data, predict risks, minimize damage, and rapidly recover.



MPI Sets the Stage for Modern Business Operations

Set designers, animators, and other motion picture production workers rely on MPI for their health and retirement benefits. As a steward of trust funds between industry unions and employers, MPI is committed to the well-being of participants, including the safeguarding of their personal data.

As its legacy systems aged and the threat of ransomware grew, MPI transformed its IT operations to deliver speed, scalability, and data protection. The organization achieved all that and more with Pure Storage, which drives the performance, efficiency, and recovery time to seamlessly support everything from pension payments to health claims.

Planning for Performance, Efficiency, and Growth

In his role as MPI's senior manager of infrastructure and operations, Andy Marosi oversees IT administrators, engineers, and the help desk. Collectively, they support over 300 employees with their daily technology needs, ranging from a virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) to databases to application development.

Impact on MPI



93% reduction in storage rack units cuts data center footprint and costs



10X faster replication and restore times for pension data



Speeds data recovery time from weeks to hours to meet legal deadlines

“Investing in the performance and longevity of Pure Storage technology was a slam dunk. It’s not just a transaction—it’s a true partnership.”

ANDY MAROSI,
 SENIOR MANAGER,
 INFRASTRUCTURE &
 OPERATIONS, MPI

Challenges



Aging storage was underperforming, costly, and hard to maintain



Backing up to tape was complex and data recovery delays were not an option



Operational continuity was at risk due to growing data security threats

Results



Delivers 13:1 compression to lower costs, with minimal support



Augments tape with FlashBlade for rapid backup and quick data recovery



Enables business-as-usual operations in the event of a cyberattack

To run at peak performance, these systems need robust storage. In addition, because MPI manages members' pensions and health benefits, it must comply with HIPAA and other data retention and privacy regulations. As the organization amassed more data and its aging storage neared the end of its service life, performance bottlenecks impacted the IT team's productivity. Even simple tasks, such as annual batch reporting on members' pension data, took days to complete.

Also consuming significant time and resources was a tape-based backup and recovery process. Physical tapes were stored offsite. Retrieving data meant ordering tapes from the site, finding the right box, and hoping that it was labeled correctly and legibly. Each box weighed approximately 50 pounds, and it could take days to find and restore the right data from tapes in the worst case.

"It was a constant battle to manage both the actual storage and performance expectations," says Marosi, "and to oversee an antiquated recovery process that involved feeding 200 pounds worth of tape into the system."

Recovering Data 10X Faster

In 2019, MPI standardized its storage environment with Pure Storage FlashBlade and FlashArray. Performance and scalability to meet growing data volumes, as well as immutable SafeMode™ Snapshots to protect data in the event of a cyberattack, were key factors in the purchasing decision. One of each system resides in its primary and secondary data centers, supporting over 2PB of data and enabling high redundancy.

"We hold a lot of personal healthcare information, so data security and protection are a huge priority," says Marosi. "With Pure, we have full confidence in our ability to navigate risks."

Approximately 1,200 virtual machines, more than 200 VMware Horizon virtual desktops, and Microsoft SQL database workloads run on Pure Storage FlashArray//X. MPI uses FlashBlade for secure storage which is now 10 times faster than before.

"Pure Storage stood out in terms of performance as well as its extremely satisfied customer base," says Marosi. "That alone spoke volumes to us, especially the independent, non-biased reviews."

Always-on deduplication and compression make the most of MPI's storage capacity despite continuous replication and multiple copies of MPI's environment. A 13:1 compression rate and a resulting 93% reduction in storage racks—from 44 rack units to three—significantly reduced power and cooling costs and MPI's overall data center footprint. And all with minimal hands-on management with help from Pure1.



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OPERATIONS, MPI

Uncomplicating Data Backup and Recovery

Recently, MPI replaced all its tape archives with FlashBlade//S for rapid backups and near-instant data recovery. A multi-tier architecture that leverages array snapshots and Commvault backups for data protection and recovery streamlines the data recovery process.

In fact, MPI calculated time-to-restore from a complete ransomware loss to be less than two days with FlashBlade, compared to more than 18 days trying to recover from tape. During this recovery time, MPI could operate for days, business as usual, by utilizing SafeMode snapshots and Commvault backups.

Additionally, Marosi and his team can field requests for data recovery, often for compliance and legal purposes, much more quickly than before. For example, to meet deadlines set out in an adjudication process, MPI's legal team must have ready access to historical data and documents when members appeal decisions on their benefits claims.

“Pure FlashBlade//S makes it so much easier to respond to legal requests,” says Marosi. “It took us a minimum of four days to retrieve data from tapes. Now we can do this on the fly.”

Driving Powerful Outcomes in Hours Versus Days

With Pure Storage, MPI unlocked the full performance of its critical systems. Now, the IT team can prepare annual member reports in hours instead of three days, freeing valuable IT resources. Downtime during storage upgrades is also a thing of the past. “We’ve done several non-disruptive upgrades with Evergreen//Forever, and nobody has even noticed,” says Marosi.

“Investing in the performance and longevity of Pure Storage technology was a slam dunk,” he says. “It’s not just a transaction—it’s a true partnership.”

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