

Investec Asset Management Shows High Returns from All-Flash Array

CREATES ALL-FLASH, 100% VIRTUAL INFRASTRUCTURE WHILE SLASHING DATA CENTER FOOTPRINT BY 80%

The Challenge: Amplify Storage System Capabilities and Simplify Storage Management Requirements

Investec Asset Management is a specialist investment manager, providing a premier range of products to institutional and individual investors. Established in 1991, Investec Asset Management serves a growing international client base from the Americas, Europe, Asia, Australia, the Middle East and Africa. The firm seeks to create a profitable partnership between clients, shareholders and employees and to exceed clients' performance and service expectations.

Challenged with shifting from a physical to an almost entirely virtual environment, Investec Asset Management's IT Team was facing performance and management issues with their legacy spinning disk SAN. SQL backups could not run during the day because they interrupted essential services including the Exchange and Blackberry servers, requiring more time to maintain the storage array. Looking to replace the legacy storage system, the IT team began to look for a new solution that would support the company's growing virtual environment without increasing management complexity.

Pure Storage has turned storage on its head.

Dave Comben
Head of
IT Infrastructure Services

The Answer: Pure Storage FlashArray Delivers High Capacity Storage in 20% of the Space

Looking to move away from the traditional problems associated with spinning disk, Investec Asset Management purchased the Pure Storage FlashArray. With inbox data deduplication and compression capabilities, the Pure Storage FlashArray could easily serve as primary storage for all test, pre-production and production servers, SQL databases, Microsoft Exchange and VMware virtual servers combined, enabling Investec Asset Management to put its entire infrastructure onto flash. "I don't ever need to use a physical host again. The FlashArray enables me to virtualize everything," said Dave Comben, Head of IT Infrastructure Services at Investec Asset Management.

The Pure Storage FlashArray reduced Investec Asset Management's hardware usage from 1 ½ racks to only 10U of rack space. This represents an 80% reduction in hardware requirements that also results in cost savings for cooling and power requirements. In addition, when Investec Asset Management deploys a second FlashArray at its disaster recovery site, it will be reduced from needing ¾ of a cabinet to only 8U of storage space.

The Solution: Increased System Performance Accelerates Virtualization and SQL Migration

Since the FlashArray easily handles all of the company's storage requirements, physical servers are no longer required for application data. Unlike the legacy SAN, the FlashArray can also support the company's upcoming VDI project on the same array. In addition, the FlashArray has accelerated the migration of older versions of Microsoft SQL to SQL 2012 across the entire infrastructure. "With deduplication rates of 5.4:1, I bought 17TB of SAN and gained 60TBs of usable capacity," said Comben.

Investec Asset Management is now positioned to improve the experience of users of its front office trading system. With Pure Storage, the IT team can combine two installations and create a unified, global solution. Load times have improved by 10%, and more importantly, the system can now handle up to 600 users instead of the 150 users that the legacy SAN system could support.



SOLUTION

- Pure Storage FA-420 supports entire IT infrastructure
- Replaced physical servers with all VMware virtual servers
- Accelerated migration to Microsoft SQL Server 2012

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT

- Hardware requirements reduced by 80%
- 4x increase in supported users for front office trading system
- Data deduplication rate of 5.4:1
- Simplified storage management

HARDWARE USAGE REDUCTION

