



AVEVA goes global with Nimble Storage for increased performance

84% reduction in storage footprint and 20x faster storage performance with Nimble Storage

Objective

AVEVA's aging infrastructure could no longer scale and struggled to support increasing workloads

Approach

Assessed other storage providers for alternative solutions that can address its current and future needs

IT Matters

- 84% reduction in storage footprint
- 20x faster storage performance with low latency of below 3 milliseconds

Business Matters

- Significant savings on operating overheads and capital expenditure
- Administration tasks simplified and issues prevented



Challenge

Time for a tech refresh

AVEVA's engineering design and information management software solutions are used by many of the top power, oil and gas, marine, and processing plant companies in the world to solve complex technical and business challenges. Founded in Cambridge, UK, in 1967, AVEVA now has over 1,500 employees in more than 30 countries, including major cities like Dubai, London, and Shanghai.

When the company built its first Singapore data center in 2008 and virtualized its storage area network (SAN), it used a combination of storage solutions from different vendors. This continued for subsequent storage deployments in other locations.

As AVEVA's business grew over the years, so did its workload demands. But the aging infrastructure could no longer scale and struggled to support the increased workloads. When it was time for a refresh, the company took the opportunity to assess other storage providers for alternative solutions that could address its current and future needs.

Furthermore, a tech refresh with the existing vendor would be cost prohibitive.

"No matter how short the cycle is, a tech refresh is usually a forklift upgrade which generally would require data to be migrated to the new arrays, incurring additional resource costs on top of an increase in maintenance costs," Yew explained.

Customer at a glance

HPE Solution

Nimble Storage Adaptive Flash Arrays
Nimble Storage InfoSight

“The reason we are rolling out Nimble solutions so rapidly is simple. We want to continue benefiting from Nimble’s ability to deliver a lean, powerful, and cost-effective storage infrastructure. That is testament to our confidence in Nimble.”

– Andy Yew, head of IT Services, AVEVA

Solution

A taste of Nimble turns into a global deployment

In 2014, the AVEVA IT team got its first taste of Nimble Storage, when they implemented a Nimble Adaptive Flash Array at its India data center to see if it could support its virtualized workloads and private cloud environment.

Impressed by the seamless deployment, ease of use, and high performance, as well as the support provided by the Nimble team, AVEVA wasted no time switching to Nimble storage arrays for its six data centers around the world.

“Ever since we brought Nimble on board in Hyderabad, we have never looked back,” Yew says. In just 18 months, AVEVA deployed Nimble Adaptive Flash Arrays in the UK for its production environment of all major systems and data recovery; in Denmark and Sweden for its virtualized development centers; and in Singapore for its virtualized workloads and Asia Pacific private cloud infrastructure.

The AVEVA IT team also utilizes Nimble InfoSight Predictive Analytics. The cloud-based management portal simplifies administrative tasks, and monitors the health of the storage infrastructure to prevent any issues and ensure it runs smoothly.”

Benefit

Higher performance storage and more savings

Since using Nimble (a Hewlett Packard Enterprise Company), AVEVA has reaped major benefits in efficiencies, performance, and cost savings. Its storage footprint is now less than a fifth of its previous infrastructure - a dramatic 84% decrease — so the company can continue to scale its storage capacity for future needs in the most cost-effective manner. Nimble arrays perform 20 times faster with a latency below three milliseconds, to keep up with mounting workload requirements.

Because Nimble’s arrays are plug-and-play, deployment and management are now streamlined. This not only allows IT staff to be more productive to focus on higher value-add tasks, it also generates savings in manpower and other operations costs. That the entire Asia Pacific IT team can be remotely based in Kuala Lumpur, some 300km away from the data centers in Singapore, is only because of Nimble arrays and InfoSight, Yew pointed out.

According to Yew, AVEVA is close to completing its global rollout of Nimble arrays, which started one and a half years ago. “The reason we are rolling out Nimble solutions so rapidly is simple. We want to continue benefiting from Nimble’s ability to deliver lean, powerful, and cost-effective storage infrastructure. That is testament to our confidence in the solution.”

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