Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Asante prescribes HPE converged infrastructure for critical Epic EMR

Maximizes availability and agility with HPE BladeSystem and 3PAR StoreServ

Objective
Ensure availability and scalability for Epic electronic medical record (EMR)

Approach
Deploy HPE BladeSystem and HPE 3PAR StoreServ Storage with HPE OpenView and HPE Virtual Connect

IT Matters
- Improved workload agility with adaptive optimization
- Maximized Epic availability across active-active data centers
- Simplified IT administration through storage federation and automated provisioning

Business Matters
- Accelerated delivery of Epic environments from months to days
- Enabled business to grow and evolve Epic without IT bottlenecks
- Transformed IT's role from technicians to business integrators

Asante provides comprehensive medical care to more than 580,000 people throughout southern Oregon and northern California. As the largest healthcare provider in nine rural counties, Asante needs to ensure consistent and efficient patient services from one location to another. That's why it relies on Epic Electronic Medical Record (EMR) to manage nearly every aspect of patient care.

An application as critical as Epic requires an IT infrastructure that ensures high availability and reliable performance, as well as efficient scalability to support Asante's ongoing growth. Therefore, Asante deployed an HPE converged infrastructure to run nearly all user-facing Epic EMR services, including patient portals like MyChart, Haiku and Canto, and general hospital administration. These applications are delivered via Epic

Hyperspace, which runs within Citrix XenApp on Microsoft Windows-based VMware ESX virtual machines. The HPE converged infrastructure also supports a variety of back-end Microsoft Windows-based Epic environments such as data warehousing, printing, BLOB data (images, audio and multimedia objects), and various reporting services.

The infrastructure, comprised of HPE BladeSystem with ProLiant BL460c Server Blades and HPE Virtual Connect FlexFabric along with HPE 3PAR StoreServ Storage, is configured in a stretched cluster across two data centers enabling continuous availability and workload agility. Asante chose HPE OneView to simplify and automate administration of the converged infrastructure through a single pane of glass.

"We needed a solution that would scale forward and run Epic across multiple data centers. As a small IT organization, we also wanted to move away from designing and developing the infrastructure ourselves to more of a converged infrastructure that's fully engineered and certified for Epic. HPE delivered on all counts, and more."

– Michael York, Systems Engineer III, Asante

Greater agility for Epic

With the HPE converged infrastructure, Asante now has the performance, availability, and agility to take on business projects of virtually any size. In the past, IT required months to set up large-footprint Epic environments. Now, IT has sufficient headroom to respond in a matter of days. A key enabler is Adaptive Optimization, 3PAR's disk tiering technology. Adaptive Optimization automatically moves the hottest most frequently accessed blocks to the fastest disks, and at the same time moves infrequently accessed cold blocks of data to slower disks.

Michael York, systems engineer III at Asante, notes, "With adaptive optimization on 3PAR we don't have to build out more arrays or add disks every time a new Epic project comes in. We just let the array move things around for us."

David Kennington, Asante's IT director, adds, "We are very impressed with 3PAR's disk tiering technology. Our engineers are stretched thin so being able to confidently rely on 3PAR's Adaptive Optimization to efficiently manage data is one less thing they must deal with."

One of the biggest benefits of the HPE converged infrastructure is the simplicity it brings to Asante's small IT organization.

"Convergence has definitely allowed Asante to be more agile with our infrastructure, but Storage federation rocks," declares York. "We're using the Peer Persistence model to create vSphere Metro Storage Clusters and it's absolutely amazing. After replicating the data amongst arrays, all you do is point the virtual machines to each side of the active-active storage arrays, and the VMs then have the ability to float back and forth between the two data centers. This really took us out of the shell game and allowed us to be

Customer at a glance

Application
- Epic electronic medical record applications that manage patient charts, billing, patient portals, and general hospital administration

Hardware
- HPE BladeSystem c7000 Enclosures
- HPE ProLiant BL460c Server Blades
- HPE 3PAR StoreServ 7400 Storage
- HPE Virtual Connect FlexFabric 20/40-F8

Software
- HPE OneView
- Epic Electronic Medical Record

HPE Services
- HPE StoreServ Installation and Startup Service
- HPE OneView Installation and Startup Service

business integrators instead of always moving resources around on the back end to keep up with operational challenges."

Positioned for growth

HPE OneView also simplified life for Asante's IT organization. Through automation and template-based configuration management, OneView streamlines provisioning and updates of servers and storage.

York explains, "To perform a firmware update on the blade enclosures and related components, we just create a new package in HPE OneView and drop it onto the servers, enclosures and switches. You know the configuration is right and consistent across the entire install base because you can see it in HPE OneView. It's a really slick tool for managing configuration consistency and enforcing compliance across the enterprise."

As Asante continues to grow and evolve its Epic environments, York is confident that the HPE converged infrastructure can take on the additional workloads. "The HPE technology has put Asante in a great position for growth," he says. "Now the business can make decisions, whether it's bringing on another hospital or deploying a new Epic application, without IT being a bottleneck."

Kennington concludes, "We are very pleased with our HPE BladeSystem and 3PAR StoreServ solution. This solution has provided the reliability, scalability, and performance we needed in our Epic EMR environment. We are not only satisfied with our investment of the HPE BladeSystem and 3PAR StoreServ solution, but also the support we've received from HPE has been outstanding. It has been a true partnership."

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