Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Case study

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vGRID®

LAYERX CLOUD PICKS HPE INTELLIGENT DATA PLATFORM TO ACCELERATE ITS CLOUD SERVICES

HPE Nimble Storage dHCI provides robust cloud platform for lab environment

Industry
Service provider

Objective
Ensure that cloud services in lab environment accurately reflect their performance and behavior in production

Approach
Deploy HPE Nimble Storage dHCI to test cloud service offerings, plan system updates, and evaluate new capabilities prior to release into production

IT matters
- Enables storage and compute to scale independently
- Optimizes storage utilization with 3.9:1 data reduction
- Simplifies administration with seamless VMware® integration

Business matters
- Accelerates evaluation and delivery of cloud services to customers
- Supports ongoing growth without expanding storage capacity
- Assures consistent customer experience testing that accurately reflects production

With data storage delivered by HPE Nimble Storage dHCI, cloud service provider LayerX Cloud, through its brand, vGRID, can test the full range of its enterprise-class offerings in a lab environment with an assurance that they will perform consistently in production. This intelligent cloud platform accelerates evaluations, helping vGRID deliver new capabilities to customers, faster.

Small- and medium-sized businesses across New Zealand trust vGRID to host their most-critical applications and data in the vGRID cloud. That's because vGRID consistently delivers high reliability and performance. Also, vGRID provides more flexible, personal service, which has built trust and loyalty from customers.

vGRID provides a range of cloud services—infrastructure as a service, software as a service, and backup as a service using Veeam Backup & Replication. To enable flexible, enterprise-class delivery of those services, vGRID built its cloud platform on HPE Synergy composable infrastructure and HPE 3PAR storage with HPE Proactive Care for support.

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"It's critical for us to be able to test accurately because we have to roll out changes frequently. HPE Nimble Storage dHCI gives us confidence that what we run in the lab will be true in production. That's an essential part of delivering service to our customers."

– Bryce Farmilo, Chief Technology Officer, LayerX Cloud

Customer at a glance

Solution
Disaggregated hyperconverged infrastructure to run a lab environment for testing a range of virtualized environments prior to delivery as production cloud service offerings

Hardware
- HPE Nimble Storage dHCI
- HPE Synergy
- HPE 3PAR

Software
- HPE InfoSight
- Veeam Backup & Replication
- VMware vCenter®

HPE Pointnext Services
- HPE Proactive Care
- HPE Foundation Care

To safely evaluate the impact of new services, updates, and security patches prior to introducing changes into production, vGRID also operates a lab infrastructure. However, the lab was comprised older systems left over following upgrades and could no longer accurately represent how applications and services would run in production.

ACCURATE LAB TESTING OF CRITICAL CLOUD SERVICES

vGRID needed a reliable lab infrastructure that was comparable in performance to production, just at a smaller scale. The solution: HPE Nimble Storage dHCI—disaggregated hyperconverged infrastructure—supported by HPE Foundation Care and HPE Nimble Storage support.

Bryce Farmilo, chief technology officer with LayerX Cloud, says, "Having storage separate from compute is very important for us. Being forced to grow your compute whenever you grow your storage just doesn't work in a service provider world."

He adds, "The integration with VMware is brilliant. We can just create a volume and have it automatically presented to the host with little more than a single click. It makes administration simple and allows us to be very flexible in creating new volumes."

With HPE Nimble Storage dHCI, Farmilo and his team are able to evaluate new capabilities with confidence, ultimately helping to deliver enhancements to customers more quickly. "HPE Nimble Storage dHCI has helped us streamline the process of evaluation," Farmilo says. "The faster we can confirm in the lab that something is going to work in production, the faster we can deliver that capability to our customers."

The vGRID team also gained greater storage efficiency with HPE Nimble Storage dHCI thanks to robust compression and deduplication. In fact, 3.5 TB of data moved from the previous storage platform consumed just 900 GB of space on HPE Nimble Storage. Farmilo notes, "We've been quite impressed with the efficiency of HPE Nimble Storage dHCI. We have loads more free space than we originally expected, which gives us the opportunity to do more with the array."

Farmilo concludes, "It's critical for us to be able to test accurately because we have to roll out changes frequently. HPE Nimble Storage dHCI gives us confidence that what we run in the lab will be true in production. That's an essential part of delivering service to our customers."

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