

Data-driven European Software Enterprise with Sustainability Services Adopts Infinidat's InfiniBox® Platform

A European software enterprise was seeking to upgrade its storage infrastructure with a more reliable, higher-performance enterprise storage solution that enhances sustainability. Data is at the heart of everything this enterprise does, ranging from its advanced environmental services software and its own cloud hosting to its business-critical applications and workloads. This is why enterprise storage is vitally important for its data infrastructure in support of data collection, analysis, streamlining, reporting and forecasting. To meet its stringent requirements, this European software company selected Infinidat, a Lenovo company's InfiniBox® enterprise storage solution.

THE CHALLENGE: TRANSFORMING STORAGE FROM BOTTLENECK TO ENABLER FOR IN-HOUSE CLOUD

This sustainability-focused enterprise provides Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) offerings for its customers, who need to be able to measure, control, and make predictions about environmental changes based on data in real time. To run this service, the enterprise's IT department operates as an in-house cloud provider, responsible for ensuring flexible, scalable and reliable services.

Before switching to Infinidat, the enterprise's previous storage system struggled regularly with bottlenecks, which adversely affected the cloud-based services that the company could provide to its end-user customers. The previous enterprise storage arrays only delivered 3,000 to 5,000 IOPS. As a result, the IT team established new criteria for higher reliability, higher availability, and ultra-high I/O performance, as well as flexibility and scalability in an enterprise storage solution.

THE SOLUTION: INFINIBOX IS A GAME CHANGER

After conducting extensive research and evaluating multiple enterprise storage products from different vendors, the enterprise chose the InfiniBox solution to serve as the foundational storage within its own data center for its SaaS offerings, as well as its internal administration and R&D operations. The enterprise started with one InfiniBox system and now runs two InfiniBoxes, with over 1.2 petabytes (PB) deployed.

While the initial focus was on block storage accessed via Fibre Channel and iSCSI, the enterprise's usage has significantly evolved – now also embracing file systems, including NFS and SMB, and supporting Kubernetes environments through Infinidat's CSI drivers. The main workloads that are run on its infrastructure are databases. In the beginning, there were mainly Oracle databases, but over time the company added a growing number of systems running PostgreSQL.

For backup, this European enterprise utilizes a hybrid approach, relying heavily on Infinidat's Snap Rotator feature, which automates the creation of storage snapshots of volumes and virtual appliances. Immutable snapshots are an integral part of the enterprise's cyber resilient backup and ransomware protection strategy for standard and container environments.

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– Head of IT

Solution Highlights



Super high performance



Ease of use



Absolute reliability



"Set it and forget it" approach



Efficient support for new services and evolving requirements

The Snap Rotator is also used to quickly spin up copies of its production environment for testing software updates, trying out new features, or importing data. This process is very fast, requiring only a few clicks in a matter of minutes, while it doesn't impact production. Once testing is completed, these environments can be easily decommissioned. For backup purposes, the business also uses tape libraries, especially for long-term archiving.

The enterprise also makes extensive use of InfiniMetrics®, which has been integrated into the sustainability business's own monitoring system. Various performance and availability parameters are used to determine how well the storage system is coping with the workloads that it processes. This helps to identify resource bottlenecks early on and take proactive measures accordingly.

THE BENEFITS: TOP PERFORMANCE, ABSOLUTE RELIABILITY AND EASE OF USE

The significant boost in performance has been a resounding success for this enterprise in Europe. The InfiniBox platform delivers approximately 300,000 real-world IOPS on a continuous basis – well beyond the 3,000 to 5,000 IOPS from the previous vendor's storage system, and this improvement was before even fine-tuning for performance. A system engineer reported that he was able to run it at around 1 million IOPS when tested in a clean state.

The Head of IT said, "We obtained a 100-fold increase in storage performance by switching from our previous storage vendor to Infinidat, and we are able to pass on this enormous magnitude of improvement directly to our customers. With the ultra-high performance InfiniBox platform in our data infrastructure, we are able to adapt and evolve to the demands of massive data growth, while eliminating bottlenecks and maintaining peace of mind."

The reliability of the Infinidat systems has also been outstanding. This enterprise has experienced 100% uptime since they installed its first InfiniBox in 2018. This has been critical to the service level that the company is able to provide for its customers.

The ease of use of the InfiniBox systems is a significant benefit, too. Infinidat's Host PowerTools are so intuitive that the IT team saved time in the setup. Unlike other vendors that require users to consume pages and pages of documentations to understand how to use the storage arrays, Infinidat's solution enables a true "set it and forget it" approach to enterprise storage. The Head of IT said that Infinidat Host PowerTools is "the most time-saving enterprise software I have ever used."

Due to the reliability and ease of use of the InfiniBox platform, the enterprise's IT department does not need a dedicated storage admin on their team. They have not needed to hire additional resources, thereby gaining cost-efficiency benefits. The Head of IT said the business has "saved countless number of manpower hours since implementing Infinidat's Host PowerTools."

Infinidat has also been very efficient in providing the European enterprise with additional functionality that was needed. For example, when the enterprise needed support for NFS and SMB file systems, the IT team turned to Infinidat's dedicated Technical Advisor with bullet points of what they needed to achieve. Within a short period of time, Infinidat delivered exactly what was requested. The customer is extremely happy with this white glove service and support from Infinidat, noting that other storage vendors would not provide this level of support. Every customer of Infinidat gets a dedicated Technical Advisor at no extra cost.



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The senior engineer systems administrator said, “I had a live demo session, which was incredibly quick and effective. This meeting with Infinidat only took 15 minutes, and within that time I was shown how to set up and connect a whole series of systems to a highly available storage infrastructure. This was the complete opposite to what I experienced with other storage solution providers.”

In addition to all of these advantages, the InfiniBox systems have also proven to be highly energy-efficient. Both InfiniBox systems account for less than 10% of the total energy consumption in relation to the computing power that the enterprise uses. Infinidat provides energy-efficient, sustainable storage for enterprise applications and workloads.

LOOKING AHEAD

As a happy Infinidat customer, this enterprise in Europe looks forward to continuing to benefit from Infinidat’s enterprise storage innovations for the long term. Infinidat has earned this customer’s loyalty.

To learn more about how Infinidat can help your organization, visit [Infinidat.com](https://www.infinidat.com).