

# ITA Group Recognizes Tegile Systems Hybrid Arrays As A Superior Upgrade To Adding Storage Capacity To Existing EMC VNX



Company overcomes performance, growth concerns of VMWare environment with Intelligent Flash Arrays over expanding undersized hardware



A leader in events, incentives and recognition programs, ITA Group works with companies of all sizes in all industries to motivate their employees to achieve better results and greater success. Based in West Des Moines, Iowa, ITA Group employs more than 500 people in regional offices across the country to help its clients ignite passion, purpose and potential in their people.

## Challenges

- High performance requirements and capacity sprawl driving storage costs out of control

## Solutions

- Tegile Intelligent Hybrid Flash Arrays

## Results

- 60% data reduction rate
- Performance driven by 500+ concurrently running VM's, VDI, SQL and Exchange workloads well supported

Believing in the tenets of financial integrity, operational quality and efficiency, ITA Group leverages technological innovation to ensure a fully configurable approach to support its clients' businesses. This approach enables ITA Group to help companies overcome the roadblocks to their success by increasing sales and market share, customer satisfaction, product and brand awareness, sales training, and employee motivation and retention.

### The Challenge: Expanding storage capacity and capabilities without breaking the bank

ITA Group began experiencing performance and growth concerns with its existing EMC VNX 5500. The company engaged EMC about adding disk space and the suggested upgrades proved to be "truly expensive." For the quoted price, ITA Group discovered it could implement new hybrid arrays rather than just expand capacity of its existing storage. It reached out to several hybrid vendors, bringing Tegile, Nimble Storage and Tintri in for what was described as an "in-house bake off."

Meeting ITA Group's requirements of two storage arrays with 30TB of useable disk space, all three companies' products hit the desired 90,000 IOPS, but only Tegile provided inline deduplication and compression to offer additional disk savings that would stave off further hardware refreshes in the near future.

"The biggest thing we saw was Tegile's data reduction," said Todd Volz, Network Engineer at ITA Group. "The cost savings from that were close to the price of upgrading the EMC VNX 5500. Tegile allowed us to come in under budget compared to the storage upgrade, which our managers really liked."

### The Solution: Tegile Data Reduction Makes Big Impact on ITA Group's VM Environment

ITA Group reduced their disk space by 60% by leveraging Tegile's inline data de-duplication and compression. With nearly 500 VMs and another 200 planned for the near future, ITA

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Group needed a solution that could minimize the impact of replicated and duplicated data and system disks within its highly virtualized VMware View environment.

"We have a fairly large number of virtual machines in our environment," said Volz. "Each of our arrays supports about 240 VMs. That's a lot of system disks and things like that, which are replicated and duplicated against every single virtual machine. Tegile's deduplication and compression is very good and we've seen some really big savings that way."

Tegile intelligent flash arrays provide consistent performance and end-user response times for hundreds and even thousands of desktops. Tegile's inline deduplication technology eliminates duplicate blocks of data across OS images, application binaries, and user data for VMware View. Data compression further reduces the storage footprint, providing data reduction ratios of up to 10:1. Moreover, deduplication and compression act as performance multipliers by maximizing the use of flash storage in Tegile hybrid arrays.

Tegile arrays are fully redundant with no single point of failure. The bundled features includes VM-consistent, space-efficient snapshots, and bandwidth-efficient remote replication. With Tegile organizations have comprehensive data protection and high availability, ensuring 24 X 7 desktop and data availability for end-users.

All Tegile arrays support multiple protocols – FC, iSCSI, NFS and CIFS. Provision storage for virtual desktops using VMFS or NFS datastores depending on a company's specific needs. Additionally, provision file shares for virtual desktops using NFS and CIFS, all on a single Tegile array. Instead of deploying multiple arrays from different vendors, consolidate multiple workloads on a single Tegile array.

### **The Result: Tegile's Functionality, Support Allows ITA Group to Expand Initial Use from VDI Platform to Supporting Databases**

ITA Group has implemented a Tegile hybrid array with expansion shelf in each of two data centers in separate locations for high availability and disaster recovery purposes, using Tegile's built-in replication feature to copy data between controllers.

Volz said that he also likes Tegile's reporting functionality, with an easy-to-use dashboard that provides real-time information about his system. The reporting tools let him know how much disk space is being used and the I/O load based on protocol, which Volz said is helpful because they utilize multiple protocols.

In addition to expanding the VDI load of the system to accommodate another 200 or so VMs in the near future, ITA Group has also expanded the use of the Tegile system beyond virtualization. The company is also

testing some of its SQL and Exchange databases on the hybrid arrays.

"With how we have budgeting – how we have to depreciate our other equipment – I don't expect to move too many other workloads over to it, but we don't expect Tegile couldn't handle it," said Volz. "In fact, I'm very impressed with Tegile's customer support. We had an issue come up during our proof-of-concept testing that impacted our workload and how Tegile handled it ... I couldn't expect anything better. They are extremely responsive."

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