

Tegile Makes the case for Maslon LLP with Cost Savings, Efficiency and Outstanding Support



Just as each client is distinct, each law firm is unique. What sets Minnesota-based Maslon LLP apart has much to do with the quality of their relationships, both with clients and co-workers. Maslon is large enough to handle the most challenging and sophisticated legal matters, yet small enough to recognize and appreciate the individuality of clients and staff.



While Maslon's vision has put the law firm on the map in Minneapolis since its beginning back in the 1950s, what the firm has in common with any law organization is lots and lots of paperwork. Most law firms are besieged with hundreds, if not thousands of pages of documents associated with each and every case. And if you are in IT, charged with the day to day operations of the firm's IT needs – as well as hundreds of VDI users (as is Maslon), storage is an all important issue.

Challenges

- Build an "always on and always working" VDI environment
- Store millions of documents cost effectively
- Support legal application and supporting databases

Solutions

- Tegile Hybrid Arrays

Results

- VDI infrastructure running seamlessly
- Saved approximately 30% in capacity consumption
- Applications running smoothly with SQL integration

Despite saving millions of legal records, including legal documents, email, and e-discovery, Jamie Blomquist, director of Information Services for Maslon, said that a SAN was a critical factor that could offer the team access to an "always on and always working" VDI infrastructure.

Since Maslon's legal team must be able to work from anywhere, Blomquist and his team set up a virtualization architecture enabling their attorneys to connect anywhere, anytime to service their clients. Currently Maslon uses the VM Horizon Suite for 150 VDI users and has about 45 virtual servers. In addition, Maslon uses Microsoft SQL file servers as well as vertical legal applications to help their team with a paper-heavy work-load.

The Challenge: a storage solution that would serve as a core piece of new infrastructure - be powerful enough to handle virtualization needs, efficient enough to keep up with email and e-discovery needs, and cost effective to not break the bank.

Blomquist found serving the needs of 150 VDI users was not an easy task and required a strong solution that could support both the VDI users and the virtualized servers. Today many mid-sized firms like Maslon are using desktop virtualization to capitalize on the benefits of virtualization, consolidation, and centralization of desktop management. However, finding the right solution can be daunting.

Prior to Tegile, Maslon was using HP's LeftHand iSCSI SAN which runs as a virtual appliance, but ultimately Blomquist found the product was not offering what they needed and the IT team felt they needed a SAN that would ensure they had the performance to meet their VDI needs and architecture to efficiently manage their growing storage requirements.

Blomquist said that LeftHand did the job – but he didn't feel confident that LH was the platform he wanted to continue leveraging as the core building block to their infrastructure

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overhaul. That was when the Maslon IT team took a look at other solutions. Aspects such as cost, storage efficiency, and analysis of the storage data were factors that Blomquist and his team appreciated. The one aspect that really caught Blomquist's attention was Tegile's dedication to customer service. "We did a forecast to better understand and analyze how Tegile's storage efficiency could offer a better value over time," said Blomquist. "What we found is not only cost savings, but that their support was a significant factor. As we got to know the team at Tegile, we realized we could trust them."

Ultimately, the IT team found that Tegile could provide features such as auto-snapshot, auto-replication, near-instant recovery, on or offsite failover, and robust virtualization management which provides simplified software licensing at a fraction of the cost of many other storage incumbents. They also discovered that VM-consistent snapshots enable the IT team to instantaneously recover from data loss or corrupted data. VM-consistent

backups and restores can be performed through the Tegile Web UI or through VMware vCenter. With Tegile, the VM infrastructure and application was always available.

The Solution: Tegile dramatically cuts the amount of storage; Cost and Builds Trust

Ultimately the Maslon IT team purchased the Tegile HA 2130 with ES 2130 shelves for primary storage that could power their virtualization needs. In addition, Blomquist purchased the S2100 with a J2100 expansion shelf. Since using Tegile, with its dedupe and compression, the IT team has saved about 13.25 TB of storage. All of the storage capacities currently range from 40 to 51 TB.

Network Operations Manager (Ken Thompson) noted that running several hundred VMs on a centralized infrastructure requires a storage architecture that delivers a consistent and productive end-user experience. Blomquist

found that Tegile delivered a rich desktop experience while dramatically reducing the amount of storage required. He also valued how well Tegile integrated with Microsoft SQL and other applications that made their VDI infrastructure run seamlessly.

Ultimately working with the Tegile team has been a great experience," said Blomquist. "We feel as though we can trust them. Their dedication to customer service and their understanding of virtualization needs has been terrific for Maslon.

