

Tegile Races To The Front Of The Pack After Major Storage Crash At Mehlville School District



Company's Intelligent Flash Storage Systems are the winning choice for overcoming failures of existing Dell EqualLogic solution



Challenges

- Finding a replacement for an aging storage system with the performance to improve response times at an attractive price point

Solutions

- Tegile Intelligent storage arrays provide Mehlville School District with the performance of flash at the price of disk

Results

- Tegile Flash Arrays improved application response times ensuring any user delays are not the result of storage system

Located in south St. Louis County, Missouri, the Mehlville School District encompasses all or part of the unincorporated communities of Mehlville, Oakville, Concord and Lemay. Through its dedication to providing institutional excellence, fiscal responsibility and community benefit, this fully accredited district serves the educational needs of about 11,000 children in a growing community of more than 90,000 residents within a 44-square-mile area.

Mehlville School District consists of one early childhood center, 10 elementary schools, four middle schools, two high schools, along with additional alternative learning programs. The progress of the Mehlville School District can be measured not only in growth but also by the improvements of its educational programs. The District is accredited by the State Board of Education and has received the state's prestigious Distinction in Performance award for the last six years.

The Challenge: Finding a replacement for an aging storage system with the performance needed to improve response times at an attractive price point required of a fiscally responsible public entity

After experiencing a crash of its existing Dell EqualLogic storage due to a firmware issue that nearly led to a loss of all of its mission-critical data, the Mehlville School District decided that it was time to replace its aging and nearly full system with a new solution. Despite the problems, the school district still asked for a proposal from Dell, as well as other Tier 1 vendors, including EMC and NetApp, as well as Nimble and Tintri.

Not seeing much value in the high-cost bids that featured older technology, Mehlville School District expanded its search to include other vendors that could provide the flash-performance needed to improve the user experience in accessing files and supporting applications. As a public institution, cost was an important consideration so a hybrid solution was sought. After looking at a number of solutions, Nimble Storage and Tegile were in the final discussion.

"When it came down to Nimble and Tegile, they both were offering some really good diagnostics that were available over the web," said Steven Lee, IT Director of Mehlville School District. "In the end, when we looked at those two, we liked the technology Tegile was using. It fit our needs the best."

Mehllville School District Modernizes Virtual IT on Tegile Storage

"Tegile is like that a race car that's not in front at the start and all of a sudden pops to the lead on the last 10 laps. I had in my head, 'This is going to be Nimble.' Yet, coming off the last turn, getting a good run at it, Tegile impressed us. That's what swayed us."

The Solution: Tegile Intelligent storage arrays provide Mehllville School District with the performance of flash at the price of disk

IT departments for educational institutions must support a wide range of workloads—everything from employee file shares, student information databases, human resource data and communication videos. With each application and end user competing for storage resources, it can be difficult to deliver consistent performance and maintain 24x7 availability without seeing storage costs spiral out of control.

Tegile Intelligent Flash Arrays™ enable the transformation of an institution's IT infrastructure, delivering lightning-fast performance and high levels of availability at a cost that's one-third of traditional storage arrays.

Tegile arrays are fully redundant with no single point of failure. All media are dual-ported and accessible through a pair of active/active controllers. In-line compression and de-duplication on SSD and hard disk throughout the array helps significantly reduce storage acquisition and

operational costs. Redundant operating system images in a virtual server platform are reduced to a single instance stored in flash. Hundreds or thousands of persistent VDI instances are shrunk down to one single boot image that can launch in seconds.

The Result: Tegile Intelligent Flash Arrays provide improved application response times to ensure any user delays are not the result of storage system

Tegile's inline deduplication and compression functionality allowed the Mehllville School District to purchase less storage. Compression results have actually exceeded what pre-sale engineers thought it would achieve. With improved IOPs, less management headaches and enough capacity for years to come, Tegile has allowed the school district to gain the performance that it needed to improve its user response while overcoming potential data loss.

Ninety-six percent of the district's IOPs are now being provided by the flash of the Tegile array, enabling the school district to repurpose its Dell EqualLogic system for storage of less important information. Improved response times allow end users to perform their job functions without delays, which has allowed the IT team to focus its efforts on other aspects of the overall computing environment.

Prior to implementing the Tegile array as part of its Cisco UCS environment, the Mehllville School District would see a big

performance hit during the middle of the day when the point-of-sales system of the cafeteria saw a dramatic rise in usage.

"We have a block schedule at our high schools and if it was a 'B' day at lunchtime, we were having performance issues stemming from our cafeteria systems and POS," said Lee. "We haven't had any calls from our schools since we switched to Tegile complaining about slow response times at our point of sales. With a small staff of network admins that do just about everything, anytime I can knock a block of phone calls out of the office, it's a win for us."

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