

Saudi Petroleum
Overseas, LTD



Saudi Petroleum chooses Tegile storage solution

London based Saudi Petroleum (SPOL) is the European marketing office of the Saudi Arabian Oil Company, the state-owned oil company of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, providing marketing services to Saudi Aramco in Europe, Africa and South America. SPOL needed to consolidate its storage solution and ensure the safety of its email and intranet data. The company turned to Tegile to provide a reliable and cost effective option for its email server and data storage needs. So impressed with the capabilities the company is now looking to migrate additional environments to Tegile systems, capitalising on its high performance and unique combination of compression and deduplication.

Challenge

To find a storage solution that can address company growth and performance for business-critical applications of caseware archive and search along with other key operational systems.

Alternatives Evaluated

IEMC, Dell EqualLogic and several other hybrid storage arrays

Results

"With Tegile, our capacity optimization improved 42% based on our new storage array's compression and deduplication. We transitioned our entire IT environment to a 100% virtualized SAN with a hybrid storage architecture and the only thing the users have noticed is that the system is now much faster."

Consolidating antiquated technology

Faced with old technology and contracts coming to end-of-life, SPOL needed to consolidate storage solutions and operate at a more efficient level. The two areas of focus were the email environment and the Energy Infonet knowledge portal which hosts numerous industry reports and data sets, and provides business intelligence to the executive teams. The oil giant was also under time pressure to migrate the data before Support contracts ran out and servers were shut down.

The company had existing storage with companies such as EMC and went through a rigorous process to determine which vendor would be able to offer the most reliable, secure, and cost and resource effective solution.

Following an industry event SPOL was introduced to Tegile and explored the option of using the Tegile storage arrays to host the email servers and data. Tegile were up against companies such as Nimble and Pure Storage but according to Paul Savvides at SPOL, the team came away from the initial meeting thinking that Tegile was the best technical solution.

"Tegile met all our requirements and at our first meeting the team instilled a lot of confidence in us that they could get the job done efficiently and to very high standards. Hosting our Intranet data was a high priority and we needed something fast and reliable – which we knew we could get from Tegile. They haven't disappointed either, the size and specifications we were advised on, fits our needs perfectly".

Making the right choice

SPOL implemented two Tegile HA2100 dual controller storage arrays with 48GB of memory and 600GB of SSD to host the company's Intranet and email data. During a

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three day period the solution was deployed and the company transferred and secured all required data sets.

Prior to the implementation SPOL tested the Tegile devices extensively, 'burning them in' for a full month to provide the best chance for a smooth transition. The company is currently under utilising the storage arrays but it won't be long before they begin to further challenge the devices with additional data sets and more complicated queries.

“The implementation process went very smoothly and the team at Tegile was a pleasure to work with – we couldn't have asked for a better one. There is a significant amount of technical knowledge spread across the team and it felt like whatever question we threw at them, there was always an answer”.

Receiving bang for your buck

SPOL experienced an improvement almost instantly with the new system and has noticed a number of key benefits:

- **Faster and more responsive** virtual machines: the Tegile storage arrays complete back-ups significantly faster than previous equipment and the technicians have noticed a huge difference in query response times
- **Easier to use** interface: the user interface is simple and concise, enabling users to quickly learn how to operate the system and get the most from the storage arrays
- Deduplication and compression functionality ensures **smarter use of storage**: this functionality combination is unique to Tegile and means that SPOL does not need to purchase as many storage arrays, resulting in cost as well as equipment efficiencies
- Number of connectivity options provides **increased flexibility**: Tegile supports more connectivity environments than its competitors, such as iSCSI, FC and NAS, which provides SPOL with different options and ensures it is not locked into one fixed system
- **Cost savings**: these come in the form of hardware and resource savings now that the storage system is faster, more responsive and able to hold more data than its predecessor.

“The storage arrays are coping with everything we throw at them and we are getting a great return on investment with them. For example, we had a historical query that continually timed out with the previous storage solution. The Tegile boxes completed the query in 12 seconds which is fantastic. As a result of this we are working to push the boxes to the limit to see exactly what they are capable of.”

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Taking the next step

Having moved the Energy Infonet intranet portal and email data sets, SPOL is now reviewing additional environments that could be shifted on to the Tegile storage arrays. The file and print data sets are likely to be moved later this year and in addition, the company is keen to reduce the server room hardware – building on capacity but condensing equipment.

