

Tegile Systems Brews Up Storage Solution For Rahr Corporation



Company's Flash-driven arrays are chosen as a replacement for aging Compellent SAN while providing improvements in capacity and throughput



Challenges

- Replacing aging SAN with new array that supports existing Fibre-based infrastructure with inline deduplication capabilities, throughput and capacity needed Solutions

Solutions

- Tegile Hybrid Storage Array

Results

- Provided inline deduplication that reduced total storage capacity by 75 percent
- Second unit serves as offsite replication target for disaster recovery operations
- Drastically improved I/O performance to support virtualized Microsoft VDI environment

Founded in 1847 by German immigrant and brewer William Rahr on the shores of Lake Michigan, Rahr Corporation produces and distributes malt and other related brewing supplies to customers around the world. The company has built its reputation with a commitment of quality, integrity and value provided to its customers.

With continuous investment in its people, facilities and products, Rahr now operates modern malt production plants in Shakopee, Minnesota and Alix, Alberta, Canada, with a barley procurement and distribution business located in Taft, North Dakota. Subsidiaries include BSG, which offers a full array of ingredient products and support for craft brewers and home brewers, as well as wineries and micro distilleries; and Koda Energy, in partnership between the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community.

Rahr's computing environment supports 300 endusers – 200 at its main campus and another 100 throughout 15 other locations – in a virtualized Microsoft VDI environment using applications such as Office and Exchange. Additional applications include SQL Server, Citrix for WAN users to access the main campus computers, and ERP software for operations.

The Challenge: Finding a Replacement for Aging Compellent SAN

With its existing Compellent SAN reaching the end of life and maxing out from a storage capacity and throughput standpoint, Rahr began to look for a suitable replacement. The company considered another Compellent system but felt that it was ultimately built on old technology and didn't offer the inline deduplication capabilities that it needed. The company considered solutions from Nimble Storage but ultimately decided to go with Tegile because of its multiprotocol support.

"We're a Fibre-backed infrastructure so we needed to purchase something with a Fibre backplane," said Todd Kmiecik, Director of IT for Rahr Corporation. "We had such an investment on the Fibre side – Fibre switches and all the infrastructure – to go with iSCSI would have been a waste. When we looked at it, Nimble didn't support a Fibre-backed backplane so we went with Tegile, which just so happened to be the better solution; a better fit for what we needed in terms of throughput."

The Solution: Tegile's Flash-Driven Arrays Provide Multiprotocol Support While Delivering Drastic Improvements in Performance and Capacity Reduction

Tegile's portfolio of Intelligent Flash Arrays are designed to accelerate a wide variety of enterprise applications – from smaller workloads to mission-critical deployments. They deliver a comprehensive set of data management capabilities while seamlessly supporting different storage media (hard disks, dense flash, high-performance flash) under a single storage operating system. Users can dial up or down the amount of flash storage needed to meet the specific performance needs of their applications. Tegile arrays provide the high performance of flash with the economics of disk storage.

Each array is powered by Tegile's IntelliFlash™ software architecture, which seamlessly accommodates different storage media and provides advanced data management capabilities for data protection, data reduction and disaster

recovery. With IntelliFlash, enterprises can deploy all-flash or a mixture of flash and hard disk in a single storage system.

Tegile IntelliFlash arrays deliver dramatic improvements in the utilization, footprint and cost of the storage infrastructure. The company's arrays enable the consolidation, virtualization and acceleration of enterprise applications with unmatched economics. Integration and certifications from leading enterprise applications ensures performance and compatibility.

The Result: Tegile Goes from a Replacement Solution to Expansion at Disaster Recovery Location

One of the criteria Rahr had when looking for a replacement for its previous SAN was a solution that provided inline deduplication, which the Compellent unit didn't provide. The Tegile array that the company has deployed has a total capacity of 25TB but after dedupe and compression, Rahr has reduced its storage needs by 75 percent, which Kmieciak describes as "one

of the best parts about all of this."

With the success of its initial Tegile array, Rahr has purchased a second unit for use at an offsite location. This second array will serve as a replication target for disaster recovery operations in addition to providing production storage for users at that site.

"We really look at hardware as a way to be able to maximize our resources," said Kmieciak. "We've seen drastic improvements in performance on the I/O side. The Tegile array has been very good for us."

We really look at hardware as a way to be able to maximize our resources. We've seen drastic improvements in performance on the I/O side. The Tegile array has been very good for us.