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ENERGY COMPANY GETS 6X PERFORMANCE WITH NEXSAN'S HYBRID STORAGE

With operations around the world, a large global energy company needed to ensure 24x7 infrastructure availability for its business critical data. Their storage solution was not delivering the performance they needed and was too complex to manage. With Nexsan Hybrid Storage, the organization's production environment is running up to six times faster.

CUSTOMER OVERVIEW

This large international oil and gas exploration and production company is among the largest in the U.S. With more than 40,000 employees and contractors worldwide, the global energy company is an industry leader in applying advanced technology to boost production and access hard-to-reach oil and gas reserves.

BUSINESS SITUATION

With global oil and gas exploration and production operations, this leading energy company relies on its computing infrastructure to keep business moving, 24x7. Yet, as the company continued to grow, its data center began to strain trying to maintain an efficient balance between capacity and performance. Larger density drives in the data intensive environment would run out of input/output operations per second (IOPS) under periods of heavy data transactions. When the company began to deploy lower density drives to benefit from higher IOPS, it found that it was consistently adding new storage spindles to keep pace with its capacity growth.

"We needed a storage system that would deliver high performance storage while reducing cost and complexity," said the company's IT director. "Our mission critical corporate data needs to always be available, but we couldn't continue to manage the complexity of adding multiple lower density storage systems. Our environment needed something far more robust."

The energy company relies on an Oracle database running on Linux for its mission critical data warehouse. The systems are installed in a network with 10 Gig infrastructure, VMware servers and CommVault software serving its archiving operations. To overcome its storage challenges and eliminate the complexity of its legacy SAN environment, the energy company wanted a solution that could provide both high capacity and high IOPS for improved performance and ease-of-use.

NEXSAN NST5000

The large energy company evaluated multiple storage options to meet its needs. Upon close inspection, some systems from tier-one vendors had single points of failure in the architecture which put business continuity at risk. Other systems did not deliver the capacity and performance that was needed or they were simply overpriced for the company's IT budget. Then Advanced Systems Group (ASG) exposed them to Nexsan's line of Hybrid Storage systems with the NST5000.

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ENVIRONMENT

- Nexsan NST5310 and NST5510 Hybrid Storage Systems
- Nexsan E-Series™ E18 and E60 SAN Storage Systems
- VMware servers
- Oracle DBMS
- CommVault archiving software

NEXSAN NST5000 SERIES BENEFITS

- iSCSI block and NFS/CIFS shared folders
- Up to 10x performance over traditional disk storage
- FASTier™ acceleration technology
- Snapshots
- Replication
- Thin Provisioning
- Online capacity expansion
- Enterprise-class reliability

"For the needs of this energy company, Nexsan's NST5000 was an ideal solution," said David Sosnowski, President of ASG. "It offered the best price/performance balance along with reduced complexity and improved data availability that were key selection criteria. The NST5000 is a unified storage play that delivers impressive performance and capacity so customers, like this large energy company, do not have to compromise any of their requirements to achieve operational and budgetary goals."

Nexsan's line of Hybrid Storage systems offer NAS, iSCSI or both. The NST5000 uses FASTier™ technology to provide the speed of solid-state at the price of spinning disk. FASTier intelligently and automatically moves data through solid-state and spinning disk in concert for up to 10X performance over traditional disk storage. The net result is a radical new cost-per-I/O to speed virtual and cloud environments.

The leading price/performance of the NST5000 has allowed them to do more work in less time while simplifying their IT environment. As part of the deployment, the company installed an NST5310 10GB unit with FASTier acceleration technology and one E18 system with 450GB SAS drives. It also installed an NST5510 10GB unit with FASTier and two E60 systems with 25 450GB SAS Drives. The result is an impressive combination of capacity and speed that serves the company's data availability needs perfectly.

RESULTS:

Once the energy company deployed the Nexsan NST series systems, it immediately saw impressive results, including up to six times performance improvement in their production environment. It has proven to integrate seamlessly with the company's VMware environment and CommVault archiving system, while supporting the high availability, reliability and performance needs of its active data warehouse environment.

"Nexsan delivered the high performance we required in a storage system while reducing cost and complexity," said the energy company's IT director. "The amazing price/performance has allowed us to do more than was ever possible before. Now we can do a lot more in less time without heavy administrative resource requirements and without having to sacrifice reliability. Nexsan provided everything we needed to streamline our operations."

CASESTUDY