

Maxta Storage Platform

Enterprise Storage Redefined

MAXTA CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY: VEDAMS



Vedams has a singular focus, dedication, and passion for everything Storage

Vedams, Inc. an Information technology services company deploys Maxta Storage Platform for its virtualized IT infrastructure and Disaster Recovery

“We wanted to consolidate our servers by leveraging server virtualization and also deliver higher levels of Availability, Agility as well as improved Recovery times.”

Subha Rajana, VP Operations & CFO

Overview

Vedams is a technology company focused on delivering engineering, support and technical marketing services headquartered in San Jose with offices in both US and India. Since its inception, Vedams used physical servers along with direct attached storage for its IT infrastructure. Since 2012, Vedams decided to move to a virtualized IT infrastructure and commissioned a project to evaluate storage alternatives for a virtualized IT infrastructure and disaster recovery solution. Vedams applications to be virtualized are primarily Microsoft-centric, including SharePoint, Exchange, SQL as well as file and print servers. They used tape for backup and data protection, with full backup once a month and incremental backups once a week. Performing recoveries as required, would take over 10s of hours. On top of that, tape is not very reliable. Moreover, the IT infrastructure lacked High Availability. **“We wanted to consolidate our servers by leveraging server virtualization and also deliver higher levels of availability, agility as well as improved recovery times,”** says Subha Rajana, VP Operations & CFO.

Key Customer Requirements

Limited IT resources due to budget constraints made it critical to ensure that once server virtualization is implemented, the system administrators can effectively manage servers and storage resources. The requirements from the IT infrastructure were:

- 1 Implement server virtualization, leveraging VMware
- 2 Minimize cost (both CAPEX and OPEX) of the IT infrastructure
- 3 Provide high availability and resiliency
- 4 Significantly improve recovery point and recovery time objectives (RPO and RTO)





Shortly after the project commenced, it became clear that in order to meet the requirements and be able to fully leverage the capabilities enabled by server virtualization, Vedams would need to purchase a storage array with enterprise-class capabilities. Shared storage is a prerequisite for utilizing many of the benefits of server virtualization such as migration of virtual machines, dynamic load balancing, high availability and disaster recovery. As they evaluated various products with these capabilities, it became clear that these products are expensive and complex to manage. Thus, they violated two of their key requirements: keep costs low, and keep it simple to enable system administrators to effectively manage servers and storage resources.

“We had two main criteria for selecting storage for virtualizing our business critical applications. First, we wanted a cost-effective, enterprise-class storage. Second, we wanted storage that was purpose-built for virtual machines and could be managed by system administrators.”

Subha Rajana, VP Operations & CFO

Maxta chosen as the Primary Storage for Vedams Virtualized IT infrastructure

After finding out about the Maxta Storage Platform (MxSP) and reading the product datasheet, the IT Director was intrigued. During a Proof of Concept that ran over a couple of weeks, Maxta storage was able to meet all of Vedams requirements. Subsequently, Maxta was chosen as the solution to address the storage needs of Vedams virtual infrastructure.

By implementing VMware server virtualization as well as Maxta, Vedams got a converged compute/storage solution on standard servers leveraging commodity components without performance, cost or scalability tradeoffs. MxSP delivers high availability, resiliency and tight integration with VMware vSphere HA to provide high availability across servers.

The system administrators can manage the entire infrastructure without having to learn complex storage tasks (LUN provisioning, mapping VM's to LUNS, etc.). Maxta's capability of creating unlimited number of time/performance/capacity efficient snapshots allows Vedams to set up snapshots at very short intervals. The recovery workflow is significantly simplified and a recovery operation is as simple as a right-click. The backup window is completely eliminated with Maxta snapshots. This has enabled Vedams to use tape backup only for long term data retention.

“We chose Maxta for our virtual environment due to its cost effectiveness and management simplicity. I was impressed by the fact that Maxta's architecture is able to leverage commodity SSD and SATA drives to get optimum performance and capacity without any cost tradeoffs,” says Subha Rajana, VP Operations & CFO

Business Benefits

The CAPEX requirements for the Maxta solution were significantly lower than purchasing a storage array with all of the required enterprise-class data services. There were some additional bonus benefits for Vedams as well. Through Maxta's capacity optimization features (thin provisioning, compression, de-duplication), Vedams was able to improve capacity efficiency by a factor of 3X to 5X. The flash optimized Maxta architecture also delivered excellent performance by leveraging commodity cMLC SSD's along with high capacity SATA drives.

Maxta's snapshots dramatically improved recovery point and recovery time objectives (RPO and RTO) and eliminated any perceptible effect on productivity. RPO shrunk from a week to minutes and RTO reduced from hours to minutes.



“With the move to Maxta, we have simplified our data protection architecture, and our Recovery Point Objectives (RPO) has reduced from a week to 30 minutes, and our Recovery Time Objective (RTO) has reduced from 10 hours to 5 minutes.”

Pandu Mundharinti, Sr. Systems Administrator

Maxta storage reduced storage complexity, which enabled system administrators to manage both servers and storage seamlessly. The fact that MxSP resources could be managed from the VMware vSphere Client was very helpful in this regard.

Customer solution at a glance

Primary applications on VMs

Bug tracking application, Microsoft centric applications

Primary hardware

- Dell R720 servers
- Nearline SATA (7.2K) disk drives
- cMLC SSDs
- 1G 8-port network switch

Primary software

- VMware vSphere 5.0 u1
- Maxta Storage Platform

As part of disaster recovery solution, snapshots of all these VMs were configured to be taken once every hour and every day a clone was taken from the last available snapshot. Data integrity checks were added to the process. Since Maxta snapshots and clones take only a few seconds to complete, monitoring and backup time is saved and system administrators can focus on high value projects.

Summary

With Maxta's storage platform, Vedams was able to virtualize its business-critical applications, meet all of its IT goals, save CAPEX and OPEX, provide high availability and resiliency, and significantly improve recovery point and recovery time objectives (RPO and RTO). Because Maxta storage is purpose-built for virtualized environments without compromising features or performance, it is able to deliver superb simplicity as well leveraging VM-centric data services and full integration into VMware vSphere Client. It also supports all VMware capabilities such as vMotion, HA, storage vMotion, and DRS.



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