



A Government Agency Case Study

U.S. Civilian Agency saves time, money and space with NetApp HCI while preparing for cloud migration.

Modernization of aging government IT infrastructure is not only a best practice; it's law. It's also an enormous challenge for smaller agencies with limited IT staff and budgets. This federal agency, that provides conflict resolution services for industry, government agencies and communities across the United States, was in that position. They were understaffed, in need of a large tech refresh in line with IT modernization requirements and required a significant reduction in their hardware footprint. With plans to move from a predominantly on-premise infrastructure to a more cloud-centric one, any modernization efforts taken today, also had to position them to make an easy transition.

Why NetApp HCI?

NetApp Integration

A long time NetApp customer with a strong vendor-client relationship, the agency's first

consideration was NetApp's Hybrid Cloud Infrastructure (HCI). Using NetApp HCI they would be able to easily integrate into their existing infrastructure and eliminate any disruption in providing employees access to internal applications and citizens continuity of agency information services.

Flexible, Independent Scaling

But the primary reason the agency selected NetApp HCI is its distinction from other hyperconverged solutions where storage and compute go hand-in-hand. Future compute requirements were essentially unknown as is often the case. With other hyperconverged solutions, increases in storage led to increases in compute resources – needed or not. The agency was looking for the flexibility to independently scale their compute and storage resources, how and when they were needed. Not only does this provide cost reduction and efficiency, it also enables ease of management.



Cost Reduction

Like most government agencies, cost was another factor the agency had to consider. They knew that reduction of the compute and storage hardware footprint was critical. Less equipment meant lower heating, cooling and energy costs which over time can add up to significant savings.

The agency started by looking at infrastructure solutions for their COOP site and knew that they would have to plan on 12 virtualization hosts, just for failover. By deploying NetApp HCI they were able to reduce 3 racks in their COOP site down to a third of a rack.

Additionally, by converging the management of the compute and storage infrastructure, the need for separate administrators was eliminated. NetApp HCI's centralized management enabled the agency's VM administrator to manage the entire stack.

Migrating to the Cloud

Today, the agency is primarily on-premise with some public cloud computing usage, mainly Office365. Their path to modernization, however, had them looking at moving a lot of their current on-premises applications and systems to the cloud. NetApp HCI is a cloud-ready solution that positions the agency for seamless migration at any time.

Why Swish?

Full Stack, Turnkey Solution

Because the agency was hampered by limited staff, they wanted a strong partner to assist with their infrastructure modernization efforts. Specifically, they were looking for a solution provider with deep storage and virtualization expertise that could provide a full stack, turnkey solution and minimize ongoing maintenance requirements. Swish, a NetApp Services Certified Partner, was the agency's choice, based on their long history of successfully deploying NetApp solutions and their robust services offerings.

Swish provided the agency with a single pane of glass that enabled them to control their network, storage and compute resources, from within native management tools they were already using. This minimized the learning curve for the staff and made adoption much faster and easier.

Maintenance Reduction

A Swish offering of particular interest to this agency, was the *Swish Health Check* service which is conducted quarterly with Swish onsite or remotely assessing the agency's IT environment. The *Swish Health Check* significantly reduces their system maintenance and keeps the system operating at peak performance. The agency is now able to focus



resources on other areas of their business in fulfilling their mission to serve industry and government with conflict resolution services.

Having Swish expertise deployed quarterly ensures that the environment is operating optimally and that scale and current usage are on track, efficient and most importantly, as planned. Needed changes and fixes are captured in a report and the agency can either work with Swish to implement the changes or opt for Swish onsite support. Either way, maintenance is significantly reduced.

Summary

Small agencies face numerous challenges in implementing the strategies to achieve IT modernization. Staffs are limited, specialized skill sets are hard to find, budgets are constrained and systems are rapidly aging past the point of useful functionality. This agency knew that hyperconverged infrastructure was an answer to small agency hurdles but the

inability to independently scale resources presented a huge road block. A strong advocate of NetApp technology for many years, they immediately saw how NetApp HCI, implemented by Swish, would enable them to function without additional staff, simplify maintenance, reduce costs and prepare for easy transition to the cloud.

About Swish

Swish is a customer-centric, specialized integrator with an engineering first culture. Swish focuses on IT Modernization, Performance and Cybersecurity solutions. Swish strives to bring value to clients through continuous improvement expertise; robust services, superior engineering and creative solutioning.

To Learn more, please visit: www.swishdata.com

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