



Case Study: Save The Children



Project summary:

As a world leading independent organisation, Save The Children operates in around 120 countries fighting for the rights of children while providing them with education, healthcare and protection.

Save The Children were looking to simplify the provisioning of available storage space on virtual machines.

Following consultations with CSG, a solution was provided based on NetApp FAS series whilst consolidating their existing ESX hosts.

“A site visit to an existing CSG client and to the datacentre provided me with the assurance that the solution would be delivered with the highest level of expertise.”

Mark Leman
Global IT Services Manager
Save The Children International

A Solution To Help Deliver Their Mission Of Lasting Change For Children.

Save The Children International is a global movement for children. As a world leading independent organisation, Save The Children operates in around 120 countries fighting for the rights of children while providing them with an education, healthcare and protection. Having worked with 10 million children in 2012 alone, Save The Children run world-class programmes, supporting their mission to deliver lasting change for children.

This global movement for children is delivered by 30 national organisations and several coordinating offices, working together to campaign for better outcomes for children and deliver programmes to support children in need.

Consolidate Environment

Save The Children had a requirement to consolidate existing VMware ESX hosts and relocate servers to a more robust site for increased availability. Due to the fact that they were running on very low disk capacity, they needed CSG to provide them with a solution that would consolidate their existing virtual infrastructure. Shared storage was considered by CSG which would allow Save The Children to share virtual machines amongst virtual hosts and achieve high availability.

There were a number of SAN storage requirements, including the ability to expand the storage capacity easily and a storage device that was best suited in a VM ware vSphere 5 environment and many database servers. After this initial storage implementation, Save The Children required a backup solution to secure the virtual machines in the datacentre, as well as a requirement for their Pakistan office to also backup Hyper-v virtual machines to the same backup location.

CSG's Datacentre Best Choice

CSG runs a secure off-site managed Disaster Recovery facility for its clients that need co-location, outsourced managed services and disaster recovery failover services. This includes an environment in which organisations are able to host complex business systems and mission critical applications. CSG also offered verifiable proof of their capability in supporting mission critical services. The datacentre is designed for absolute zero downtime and is specifically built for providing organisations with a state-of-the-art time hardened technology platform.

Benefits:

- CSG's experience and best practice methodologies deliver virtualised solutions that enable customers to dramatically increase the productivity and improve the availability and efficiency of their IT operation.
- NetApp FAS series provides efficiency, business agility, high application up-time and simplified data management.
- Virtualising an existing environment saved on costs but at the same time provided a more efficient method of provisioning storage. The NetApp will provide for future expansion, resilience and redundancy.

Consolidate Environment

Initially, there was no shared storage solution in place and all virtual machines were hosted on local storage to the VMware server. The provisioning of available space was difficult to manage and free space was becoming sparse. Therefore, Save The Children requested to simplify the provisioning of storage for virtual machines, used three upgraded ESX hosts and increased availability and recoverability on key systems.

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To meet with Save The Children's requirements, CSG proposed NetApp as the preferred storage product. NetApp FAS series are built on enterprise level technology, provide future expansion to 400TB+, integrate technologies, supply high levels of resilience & redundancy and backed by an extensive manufacturer service agreement. "From the outset CSG provided me with the confidence that the solution they were proposing would give me the increased availability through consolidation of the existing infrastructure. A site visit to an existing CSG client provided me with the assurance that the solution would be delivered with the highest level of expertise" said Mark Leman, Global IT Services Manager at Save The Children International.

Solution Efficiency

A scalable solution was developed to meet with the demands that Save The Children had for their business growth. This was done by using space efficiency technology like NetApp which features Data Deduplication & Snapshot technology. CSG also recommended a second host to maintain redundancy and have the resources to host all critical virtual servers for replication.

The deployed technology included:

