BigGreen IT
Revealing the Cloud

Red Hawk Casino
Case Study

The Challenge

How do we run critical reporting applications in a shorter timeframe?

Red Hawk Casino faced a major challenge - to provide the IT horsepower necessary for their marketing department to run its intensive reporting applications in a shorter timeframe, and during business hours. The roadblock appeared to be the responsiveness of their SAN storage architecture that was running on legacy equipment. Multiple hosts were being used running VMware attached to a NetApp SAN. The marketing department was asking to run reports against the database.

When reports ran they would take anywhere from 12-15 hours and would bring the IT environment to a crawl. Red Hawk was consuming 10,000 IOPS during 'normal' periods of operation. Add the reports to the mix, and IOP consumption would spike to.

The Solution

Look to dramatically improve SAN performance.

In order to find a solution, the problem needed to be clearly defined: The current SAN could not support the IOPS necessary for the workload. The answer involved finding enough IOPS (50,000+) to support the marketing reporting requirements without spending a fortune upgrading the current NetApp.

The answer

Bring in new all-flash SAN technology from Pure Storage, providing 200,000 IOPS to all applications all the time ! With 8.1 data average reduction, Red Hawk was able to address more than 70 TB of usable data in 8u.

The Results

A cost effective SAN that performs better than expected.

Vastly improved marketing report times : from 15 hours to less than 2 hours. No degradation of speed to the rest of the IT environment while the marketing reports are running during business hours. All VM's moved off the NetApp to the Pure Storage SAN with great success.

SOLUTION

- PURE STORAGE
- Model 400 11 TB Array
- 200,000 IOPS - more than enough to support marketing reporting requirements
- 8:1 average data reduction

BENEFITS

- Data acceleration
- Consistent sub 1ms latency
- Improved reporting
- Reliability
- Space efficiency - going from 2 racks to 8u
- 90% reduction in electricity usage

"BigGreen IT has a depth of knowledge and an unparalleled consultative approach that lead to a unique and innovative solution that fit our unique situation. Pure Storage has enabled us to have a SAN with enough performance overhead to eliminate the need for tiered storage and an innovative de-duplication approach that manages data sprawl effectively."

Matthew Morgan
Vice President IT, Red Hawk Casino

10/4/2018