Stories of Success:

Transforming Business-Critical Application and Database Infrastructure with Nutanix
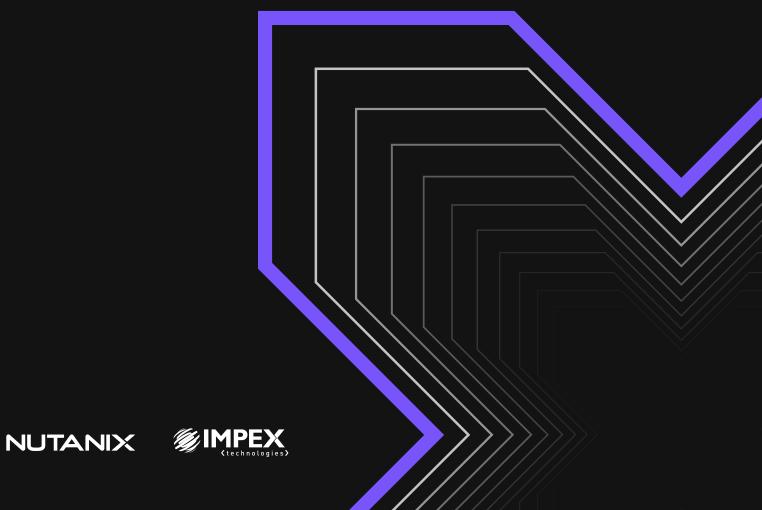
NUTANIX   IMPEX ‹technologies›

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Case Studies

Introduction

This book shares real-world examples and case studies from Nutanix customers who have successfully leveraged Nutanix to modernize the infrastructure they use to support their business-critical applications and databases. These case studies provide valuable insights into the benefits IT leaders and the organizations they support have experienced when switching from legacy infrastructure, including increased agility, improved performance and scalability, and reduced costs.

About:

One of the East Coast AAA Clubs provides roadside assistance and other benefits for motorists across the U.S. The organization's IT staff supports more than 6,000 users at offices throughout the region.

Challenge:

The Club is constantly improving its operations to better serve its members, and the organization was under tremendous pressure to refresh its legacy three-tier environment that was saddled with obsolete, underperforming equipment. Critical business and member applications upgrades were slow and time-consuming, which impacted timely access to the insights needed to make data-driven decisions.

Solution:

The Club moved to Nutanix Cloud Infrastructure and adopted Nutanix Database Service to support its fleet of 100 Microsoft SQL Server databases running on all-flash clusters. The result was an 80% database performance improvement and a 50% reduction in total cost of ownership compared to its previous environment.

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We moved the BI database from our previous three-tier SAN infrastructure to Nutanix HCI, and the performance was night and day ... [NDB's] support for one-click updates is saving us time and expenses, which is very impressive to upper management.

Senior Architect,
East Coast AAA Club

About:

TwinStar Credit Union is focused on providing a customer-centric experience to its members, and its network infrastructure is the platform that makes its banking services possible. When its aging on-premises storage systems began to experience performance issues, its IT team understood that the firm would have to make a change before the limitations impacted members.

Challenge:

The credit union was struggling with outdated IT infrastructure, applications that were not performing well, and required a significant amount of maintenance. The system updates took too long and were straining the organization's IT resources. TwinStar needed a more efficient and effective IT solution to address these challenges.

Solution:

TwinStar migrated its separate on-premises infrastructure and storage to Nutanix HCI. To support its storage, the firm eliminated its on-premises platform and moved to Nutanix Files Storage for simplified, automated file management. Nutanix smoothly runs the Jack Henry and Associates software that TwinStar uses for its core banking functions.

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> We're Nutanix for our compute functions and for storage—it's basically our infrastructure backbone. We have more than 200 applications that employees use, both in the cloud and on-premises, and Nutanix provides a robust platform to support them.

Brian Tallon,
Vice President, Information Technology,
TwinStar Credit Union

About:

Fairfax County, Virginia is the largest jurisdiction within the Washington, DC metropolitan area and its IT team relies on its infrastructure to deliver the public services that citizens expect, from tax payments to business licensing, public safety, county records, and more. For years, the County had maintained separate compute and storage infrastructures, which provided adequate performance but were inefficient — and expensive to maintain.

Challenge:

The Fairfax County infrastructure existing three-tier infrastructure from Cisco and NetApp began to show its age, and infrastructure management required administrators to switch between different tools and consoles.

Solution:

After considering a variety of alternatives, the Fairfax County IT team migrated its siloed infrastructure to a Nutanix hyperconverged solutions and realized immediate 60 percent saving on power and cooling, while enhancing the performance of its SAP ERP systems. Fairfax County also leveraged Nutanix to support its SQL server and Oracle databases, providing high-performance and streamlined operations, and significantly improving the performance of critical workloads.

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" Nutanix lets us greatly reduce the complexity of managing storage and infrastructure separately. Once we retire our separate storage platforms, we will also be consuming much less rack space and power, which will result in significant cost reduction as well.

Gulzar Khan,
IT Program Manager,
Fairfax County

About:

InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) is the second largest hotel company in the world with nearly 5,431 active properties in over 100 countries and an additional 1,776 hotels in the pipeline. For its U.S. operations, IHG has two main datacenters on the East and West coasts, supporting a variety of business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-consumer (B2C) applications, including important mobile apps.

Challenge:

IHG's existing infrastructure was not able to provide the necessary scalability or visibility into its application data, inhibiting its Elasticsearch analytics platform and operational dashboards.

Solution:

IHG chose Nutanix Enterprise Cloud with AHV virtualization to deploy their Elasticsearch environment due to its simplicity, cost-effectiveness, and superior performance. The real-time visibility and ease-of-use management features of Nutanix distinguished it from alternative hyperconverged solutions. Utilizing Nutanix's included hypervisor, AHV, has also lowered their total cost of ownership by eliminating expensive hypervisor licensing fees.

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> Moving our Elasticsearch deployment to Nutanix Acropolis and AHV has been an excellent decision for our company. We consider Nutanix to be a true partner to our organization — not just another technology provider.

Brian Malia,
Systems and Storage Manager,
InterContinental Hotels Group

About:

In operation for over 60 years, Mercedes-Benz has four plants in Brazil and more than ten thousand employees across the country. As the only automotive company that operates in all industry segments in Latin America, Mercedes-Benz manufactures automobiles, light commercial vehicles, trucks, bus chassis, as well as producing gearboxes, engines and axles.

Challenge:

Mercedes-Benz do Brasil Ltda.'s IT team had worked with legacy applications in a traditional three-tier environment with a server and SAN storage network. Due to slow upgrades and installation processes requiring significant manpower, these systems were no longer meeting their IT needs. The team decided to find a new technology solution that could provide increased speed, availability, and costefficiency to address their IT challenges.

Solution:

After evaluating Nutanix, the IT team at Mercedes-Benz do Brasil Ltda. determined that it provided a well-developed environment that offered the simplicity and functionality they needed for their applications and infrastructure. As a result, they chose to implement Nutanix HCI, which was installed and operational quickly.

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> With Nutanix, the Mercedes-Benz IT team is enjoying the features that save them a lot of time. Upgrades that used to take 6 hours can now be completed in just 30 minutes. The 1-Click Upgrade tool is another key benefit: by automatically adding enhancements without the need for lengthy development projects, Nutanix helps to free up time that the IT team can devote to other business functions.

Aníbal Ulisses Coral,
IT Infrastructure Architect,
Mercedes-Benz do Brasil Ltda.

About:

Nexxera is the leading provider of business-to-business payment services in Brazil. Companies across all sectors use Hubly — Nexxera's one-stop solution for finance and business management — to coordinate supply chains, process invoices, and handle payments. As well as providing payment processing services, the company also offers Nexxera Credit: a smart credit management platform that enables businesses to ensure suppliers are paid on time, every time.

Challenge:

Nexxera's IT challenge was related to the inability of their current IT systems and processes to support future growth with soaring transaction volumes. To overcome this, they aimed to transform their data center, focusing on greater scalability and reduced costs, along with improved security and data monitoring features. Nexxera saw this as an opportunity to upgrade their IT systems to meet their business's evolving needs.

Solution:

To eliminate complexity and drive more efficient IT system management, Nexxera replaced its legacy infrastructure with HCI from Nutanix and Lenovo. Nutanix AHV Virtualization offers a secure, enterprise-grade virtualization solution that helps the organization streamline operations. Pre-integrated on the Lenovo ThinkAgile HX platform, it resides on two four-node clusters at separate sites in an active/active configuration for synchronous data replication. The combined solution simplifies infrastructure management while offering easy flexibility and scalability.

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The Nutanix AHV hypervisor helps us to avoid vendor lock-in and offers native integration with public cloud solutions, opening up the possibility for us to explore hybrid cloud and multi-cloud solutions in the future. Together with the Lenovo ThinkAgile HX Series, the solution helps us simplify and streamline our IT architecture and reduce the management burden.

Thiago Garcia,
Director of IT Infrastructure,
Nexxera

About:

Olam is re-imagining global agriculture and food systems, using technology to create safer, more efficient and sustainable ways of operating. To deliver its goals, the organization needed to break away from the restrictions of a three-tiered infrastructure and move to a form of software-driven IT that could support a mix of private and public clouds.

Challenge:

Olam banked its digital strategy on the cloud. It would remove the complexity of the traditional three-tier infrastructure that Olam had used up to now. It would also break down boundaries that prevented the free flow of data across Olam. The company planned to follow a hybrid cloud model that combined a private cloud for greater control over its business data with the large-scale computational resources of a public cloud.

Solution:

Olam deployed a three-node Nutanix HCI solution to power their hybrid cloud, along with a multi-cloud management capability. They proceeded to migrate workloads to Nutanix, adding more nodes as their legacy hardware reached its end-of-life. With each additional node, they saw greater performance and capacity, and in two-and-ahalf years, they implemented over 40 Nutanix nodes, which support around 95% of their entire IT stack. Nutanix now hosts their SAP ERP system, MySQL and Microsoft SQL Server databases, a VMware Horizon VDI, and Microsoft Exchange and Skype environments.

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With Nutanix, we are digitally transforming the agri-business, improving the quality of produce and the sustainability of production while giving many farmers a firsttime opportunity to improve yields.

Thiagaraja Manikandan,
President & Group CIO/CTO,
Olam Internationa

About:

Sakra World Hospital (Sakra) in Bangalore is a multi-specialty hospital offering different branches of medicine and surgery under one roof. With its 350-bed capacity and 200-plus doctors, Sakra boasts a state-of-the-art medical facility for people living in this vibrant city, which is also the center of India's tech industry.

Challenge:

Due to its legacy, three-tier infrastructure, Sakra's database servers supporting the hospital information system and electronic patient records couldn't provide data in a timely manner, leaving clinicians with a wait of 10-15 seconds when they moved between application screens. The situation reduced the number of examinations they could attend to in a day. The rates of patient satisfaction were reduced by the frustration of waiting up to 2 minutes for their medical bills to be prepared.

Solution:

Moving to a Nutanix Cloud Infrastructure has transformed the performance of Sakra's databases. Queries are answered faster, and application screens are updated in 1-2 seconds instead of 10-15.

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> We've seen a huge improvement in [database performance]. It takes 30 seconds to calculate the fees, greatly improving patient satisfaction.

Bhoopendra Solanki,
Head of IT,
Sakra World Hospital

About:

Meritz Securities was designated as a comprehensive financial investment business entity (Large IB) in 2017. Since then, Meritz Securities has been diversifying its profit by strengthening the retail finance business while maintaining its competitiveness in the corporate finance business.

Challenge:

To improve the cost efficiency in tandem with trends in financial IT infrastructure, Meritz Securities migrated from the existing Unix Systems to Linux systems, establishing stable IT infrastructures for long-term growth. As their business expanded, they deployed many high-performance servers to deal with increased data and workload requirements. However, that led to high IT maintenance and expensive software license fees, and a low utilization rate of hardware resources. Meritz Securities aimed to build an IT system that can be scaled out rapidly and flexibly in line with future growth of the business, operation demands, and customer service offerings.

Solution:

Meritz Securities chose to introduce Nutanix HCI to establish a costefficient on-prem virtualization-based approach, citing Nutanix's proven performance and stability as the primary reasons for their decision. They plan to adopt the hybrid cloud in preparation for an increase in customers and believe that an HCI-based virtualization environment will support a seamless link to the cloud experience. Building a new public and private cloud service on Nutanix nodes allows them to quickly configure, deploy, and manage their cloud, enabling them to accommodate high fluctuations in their core business and workloads instantly.

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Nutanix is a cost-efficient, flexible infrastructure that supports our business growth. With Nutanix, our core operating businesses like customer service and internal tasks were sped up for all stakeholders. We plan to transition into a hybrid cloud environment to accelerate business-critical processes.

Seunghoon Lee,
Meritz Securities Co., LTD

About:

The Amman Stock Exchange Company (ASE) operates, manages, and develops the operations and activities of securities, commodities, and derivatives markets inside and outside Jordan. ASE seeks to provide a strong and secure environment to ensure the interaction of supply and demand forces for trading in securities in line with proper and fair-trading practices and raising awareness and knowledge of investing in the financial markets.

Challenge:

ASE's legacy hardware was causing performance and maintenance challenges for their IT team, with the added concern of potential disruptions to operations due to aging infrastructure. Their IT infrastructure couldn't scale with business needs, leading to issues such as disk failure occurring regularly despite the environment remaining stable.

Solution:

ASE decided to implement a virtual environment based on Nutanix solutions, as it proved to be the best option from both technical and financial perspectives. Nutanix solutions enabled ASE to ensure high availability and implement stretch clustering between different geographical locations, addressing the issues of scalability and stability.

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> We went from 42U racks in each site – fully mounted with legacy servers, storage and controllers – to just 4U of Nutanix servers running AHV and hosting all our applications. This of course has resulted in massive energy and space savings.

Eng. Fadi Sodah,
Director, Information & Communications Technology,
Amman Stock Exchange

About:

In order to both maintain and further develop the IT services provided to its membership, The Bar of Ireland was faced with upgrading or replacing its end-of-life infrastructure. Unlike a commercial company, however, The Bar is totally funded by the barristers it serves, making it imperative to find a solution able to meet a strict operational budget without compromising on factors such as performance, scalability, or ease of management.

Challenge:

The Bar of Ireland was looking for a solution that would provide the benefits of cloud computing, including on-demand scalability and flexibility, but within a strict operational budget. As public cloud platforms were not a good fit for the organization due to cost concerns, they decided that a mix of HCI and a hybrid cloud would be the best solution.

Solution:

The Bar of Ireland decided to use Nutanix's Acropolis Hypervisor (AHV) to support its hybrid cloud infrastructure. The decision was based on financial and operational advantages, such as savings on hypervisor licensing, a single console to manage both physical and virtual resources, and support from a single vendor for any issues.

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> Although we have moved some applications into the cloud, it doesn't work for every workload. Especially for a non-profit like us, unable to absorb the high access charges and usage costs some applications can generate. The Nutanix hybrid cloud approach has solved that dilemma by empowering us to understand where our applications are best hosted, on-premise or in the cloud, to get the outcomes we want at a price we can afford.

John Kane,
Director of ICT,
The Bar of Ireland

About:

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is responsible for welfare, pensions and child maintenance policy. As the UK's biggest public service department it administers the State Pension and a range of working age, disability and ill health benefits to around 20 million claimants and customers.

Challenge:

For over 20 years, DWP outsourced much of its IT, but that arrangement was no longer seen as delivering the best value for money in terms of performance or availability. Outsourcing had led to the creation of isolated IT silos which, together with arms-length management and support, was limiting the DWP's ability to scale and adapt its apps to meet the needs of a rapidly evolving modern workplace.

Solution:

The DWP chose Nutanix as their IT solution due to its ability to match the performance, scalability, and resilience of public cloud platforms while giving them back control without the need for specialist technicians. They were also impressed with the completeness of the Nutanix solution, its reputation for high-level service and support, and its vision for a hybrid multicloud future. The vision would allow them to move application workloads seamlessly between private and public clouds as required.

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> " Nutanix has put us firmly back in the driving seat, meeting all the scalability, resilience and easy management requirements of what was a major change of direction for the DWP. Beyond that, Nutanix has impressed us with the completeness of its solution, high levels of service and support and its vision foran agile multicloud future towards which we're already moving.

Jamie Faram,
Head of Hybrid Cloud Services Operations,
Department for Work and Pensions

Conclusion

As the IT landscape continues to evolve and change, organizations need to examine new and innovative solutions that can help them stay ahead of the curve. Nutanix provides a powerful and cost-effective solution that can help organizations achieve their goals while providing a solid foundation for future growth and success.

We encourage you to take a closer look at Nutanix Cloud Platform and see why you can be hyperconfident with Nutanix. You can learn more by visiting www.nutanix.com/bca.

And if you are ready to experience the simplicity of Nutanix first-hand. Sign-up for a free test drive today at www.nutanix.com/one-platform.

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