

NOTTING HILL HOUSING (NHH) DRASTICALLY IMPROVES STORAGE PERFORMANCE AND RESILIENCE WITH HP'S ENTERPRISE VIRTUAL ARRAY (EVA) 8000 SAN INFRASTRUCTURE.

The award winning Isokon
conversion in Camden

Founded in 1963 by the Reverend Bruce Kenrick, NHH is a new kind of housing provider. The organisation works as an entrepreneurial social business with real commercial sense.

In order to cater to increased business demands, help manage nearly 19,000 homes across London and deliver greater performance to users, NHH decided to upgrade their existing storage infrastructure.

Project Summary

Industry
Housing

Challenges

- Provide a long-term data retention and security infrastructure
- Consolidate mixed hardware, operating system and virtualisation platforms
- Incorporate a Disaster Recovery site capability within the solution design
- Support a more effective and comprehensive backup strategy

Solution

- 1 x HP EVA 8000, connected to the server infrastructure via Fibre Channel switches

Benefits

- Scalability and performance to meet increased storage demands in the future
- No longer need to run compression since storage capacity is increased
- Reduction in backup time from 12 to 4 hours
- Storage processor based snapshot and replication frees up host CPU time

System Professional working
as an HP 2008 CSS Partner

2008
Preferred Partner



System Professional working
in association with:



NottingHillHousing

For more information please
get in touch:

www.sys-pro.co.uk
info@sys-pro.co.uk
Telephone: +44 (0) 1825 830000
Fax: +44 (0) 1825 830001

Project Overview

NHH were nearing storage capacity with their existing HP Modular SAN Array (MSA) 1000 storage infrastructure. Due to anticipated storage growth and increased business demands, a new storage solution was required, along with a significant increase in performance, reliability and resilience.

As Graham Whitaker, Infrastructure Manager of NHH explained "We had already run a Storage TechWorkshop with System Professional to help scope the project and identify the issues involved. This was an invaluable exercise since it allowed us to outline all of our key requirements to the System Professional project team, along with a comprehensive overview of our current systems, infrastructure and business processes. Their subsequent Statement of Work document and technical proposal around the HP EVA platform resolved all of our major concerns."

A new scalable storage solution was required for the mixed hardware and operating system platforms utilised within NHH. This comprised of 4 x Solaris servers, 6 x VMware ESX servers and a Windows MIS server.

Whitaker emphasised that a more efficient backup strategy was key, since the existing manual process was costly and time-consuming. Live data needed to be backed up daily to disk, whilst test data required twice weekly backups.

Solution

"We reviewed a number of storage vendors, but felt the HP EVA 8000 offered the performance and scalability the business needed. We also liked the System Professional approach, their structured delivery framework and initial TechWorkshop scoping exercise. We spoke to some of their other storage project customers and were reassured by their proven track record."

System Professional Ltd is based in East Sussex, supporting an Enterprise customer base across the UK. The company, an accredited HP 2008 CSS Partner with specialist HP Storage skills, holds the esteemed HP Master ASE accreditation and is highly adept in Storage project planning, design and implementation.

The modular infrastructure, high performance and expandable capacity of the HP EVA solution maximises the capability of the new solution to meet Business Continuity Planning requirements. The EVA also provides native support for real time replication, enabling straightforward Disaster Recovery site set-up.

Following a System Professional Storage TechWorkshop scoping and planning exercise, NHH selected an HP EVA 8000 2C18D configuration with 88 x 500GB FATA disks and 59 x 300GB FC disks. The solution utilised HP Command View EVA software for management and deployment and HP Business Copy EVA software for the creation of instantaneous snapshots for use with backup routines.

"The EVA Storage Controller provides snapshots that allow us to receive instantaneous point in time data copies. All backups are now centralised and this has dramatically improved restore times. The increased storage capacity of the EVA has rendered disk compression obsolete and this has already resulted in a marked performance increase for file and print services," added Whitaker.

"System Professional delivered a major new storage platform during an office move and new finance system implementation, so I can certainly commend their project management abilities."

**Graham Whitaker,
Infrastructure Manager, NHH**

"We are extremely pleased with the results and feel the HP EVA deployment has delivered real business benefits to the Group" said Whitaker. "System Professional has delivered a major new storage platform to the business during an internal office move and new finance system implementation, so I can certainly commend their project management abilities. The HP EVA solution was delivered on time and has resulted in immediate performance improvements to the business."



About System Professional

Formed in 2003, System Professional Ltd is a fully accredited HP 2008 CSS Partner and has a dedicated focus in Application Delivery, Storage and Backup, Virtualisation and Disaster Recovery technologies.

With a Head Office in East Sussex, System Professional supports an Enterprise customer base located across the UK. For more information, go to: www.sys-pro.co.uk



Notting Hill Housing

About NHH

NHH is one of the country's leading housing associations managing nearly 19,000 homes in London, housing over 50,000 people and employing 700 staff.

Notting Hill Housing is the trading name for: Notting Hill Housing Trust, Notting Hill Home Ownership, Notting Hill Developments and Notting Hill Commercial Properties. For further information please visit www.nottinghillhousing.org.uk



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