Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Flevoziekenhuis secures storage headroom as data continues to grow

HPE Flexible Capacity enables hospital to add storage on pay-per-use basis

Objective
Keep up with growing demand on IT systems and increasing need for more data storage

Approach
Find a reliable partner to provide the right services, bring the right knowledge, save costs and ensure a flexible solution to meet future needs

IT Matters
- Enables IT to keep pace with growing demand on systems and data storage without costly over provisioning

- Ensures reliable accessibility and rapid availability of data

- Allows in-house IT to focus capabilities on critical issues and strategic initiatives

Business Matters
- Reduces cost of data storage, with pay-per-use model freeing capital budgets

- Ensures storage capacity grows in line with hospital needs

- Simplifies planning around future data requirements, securing optimal patient care at all times, with means to monitor all access routes

Flevoziekenhuis is a typical modern hospital. As it strives to deliver more effective, more sophisticated treatment to patients, its data requirement has grown dramatically. HPE Flexible Capacity creates a pay-per-use model to reduce cost and provide the headroom to cope with future growth.

Challenge

Keep up with increasing amount of data
Continuous growth has always been a key challenge for Flevoziekenhuis, located at the very heart of Almere, the Netherlands. When the hospital opened its doors in 1991, this city housed some 71,000 people. Almere itself had been established from scratch only 15 years earlier on the reclaimed land of the Flevoland-polder. By 1991, the city was set to grow very rapidly: in 1995, there were already well over 100,000 inhabitants and today nearly 200,000 people live in Almere. As a result, Flevoziekenhuis started expansion plans in 2006, tripling its size to 60,000 sqm by 2010. Today, Flevoziekenhuis employs nearly 1,600 people, managing 386 beds and taking care of almost 16,000 patients annually.

"The amount of data is growing by 10 or even 20% per year. This asks a lot in terms of IT. If you don't grow your IT operation fast enough, the hospital will run into trouble. HPE Flexible Capacity allows me to accommodate storage growth more flexibly and in line with the needs of the hospital."

– Lex Pater, ICT manager, Flevoziekenhuis

"The growth of the hospital is absolutely in line with the growth of the city," says Lex Pater, ICT manager at the Flevoziekenhuis. "The amount of data is growing by 10 or even 20% per year. This asks a lot in terms of IT. If you don't grow your IT operation fast enough, the hospital will run into trouble."

Both Lex Pater and Erik Bijleveld, head of automation technology at the Flevoziekenhuis, expect that the amount of data at the hospital will continue to grow: "We see increasing digitization in the hospital in general. Additionally, medical equipment such as CT scanners and MRI are becoming much more accurate. That's good news in terms of patient care, but at the same time it is also bringing in more data per image. And as we treat more patients, we also collect more information – adding even more data."

Healthcare regulations in the Netherlands require medical data to be stored for 15 years, sometimes even longer. In addition, data needs to remain accessible and be available very quickly at all times, as patient information has a vital role - literally - in clinical decision making. At the same time, the hospital has the goal to reduce annual operating costs of ICT.

Looking to the future, Bijleveld foresees growing responsibilities for his ICT department: "Security plays a very important part in this, just as data storage does. But how we release data is also important. The biggest future challenges for the hospital will be the increasing amount of data and the amount of access routes and solutions we provide externally."

Solution

Pay-per-use storage

Pater: "When I started at the hospital just over seven years ago, it became pretty clear to me that a huge effort had to be made to catch up in order to handle further growth. I also decided not to solve this challenge internally, but to find help from an outside party."

Pater started looking for a partner to provide the services he required: "I was not searching for hardware or software. I needed to build a reliable relationship with a partner that is able to really help me. I found Hewlett Packard Enterprise to be that partner." Choosing the pay-per-use principle, provided by HPE Flexible Capacity, allows Pater to grow storage capacity more flexibly and in line with the needs of the hospital.

HPE Flexible Capacity is billed monthly as a service for actual metered usage; it helps to track costs and includes the infrastructure and support needed. Pater says: "That means you can effectively incorporate it in your annual budget – instead of reacting to peaks every three, four or five years. It makes planning much easier and also a lot more flexible."

Introducing the flash drives increased performance on the important parts, the rest of the 3PAR tiers which replaced the old solution resulted in an overall cost saving of close to 30%. HPE 3PAR StoreServ data storage systems modernise data centres to instantly handle inconsistent workloads with 99.9999% data availability. It provides rapid and automated provisioning, multi-tenant design, hardware-accelerated deduplication and sub-1ms latency – all within a single tier-1 storage architecture.

"I did not even really notice that the migration of our storage environment was happening. After three weeks HPE just said it was done. That is really great. And that's also what I expect in this long-term relationship: new technology is introduced on time," explains Pater.

Bijleveld also mentions how HPE Datacenter Care - Operational Support Services (DC - OSS) unburdens his staff. HPE Datacenter Care - OSS monitors and controls the infrastructure, freeing Bijleveld and his team up to focus on the hospital's critical issues and strategic initiatives. HPE also offers a wide variety of IT services to augment the organisation's capabilities. Bijleveld says: "HPE has the knowledge and skills to deal with infrastructural issues quickly and effectively. That enables us to focus entirely on the day-to-day operations here at the hospital."

Benefit

Moving forward, into the future

The city of Almere is likely to continue to grow, as the Dutch government and Almere have agreed to add another 60,000 houses over the coming years as part of the 'Almere 2.0' masterplan. HPE Flexible Capacity allows the Flevoziekenhuis to keep up with this growth.

The capacity-based solution – which added up to a yearly saving of current storage exploitation costs of 30% to the hospital – is also a good preparation for forthcoming changes in the Dutch health system.

Customer at a glance

Hardware
• HPE 3PAR StoreServ

HPE services
• HPE Flexible Capacity

• HPE Datacenter Care - Operational Support Services

"HPE Flexible Capacity means I don't have to worry about Storage. Hewlett Packard Enterprise ensures availability. That is very reassuring."

– Lex Pater, ICT manager, Flevoziekenhuis

An evolution is underway to likely move hospitals toward greater specialisation, concentrating both medical expertise and associated equipment for greater efficiency and improved care. When the hospital has to scale its operations to the changing needs and demands, there are now only operational cost involved - not capital IT equipment investments - so they can better align costs to the business as it changes.

Pater and Bijleveld are convinced they have found the right partner and the right solution to keep up with the increased demand on the IT systems and the increasing demand for more data storage. "The main added value of HPE is in the knowledge that is provided together with these solutions – knowledge that I would otherwise have to acquire by sending people on courses to keep up with rapid changing technology.

"Also, the pay-per-use solution allows me not to worry about storage, as HPE ensures that there is always sufficient capacity available. That is very reassuring for me," says Bijleveld.

For Pater, HPE Flexible Capacity means he can indeed fulfil the storage needs of the hospital in a very flexible and efficient way and within budget restraints: "I have confidence that I can handle demand, year in and year out, without the need to source capacity far in advance not knowing when I will be needing it. I now have the secure feeling that I can move forward, into the future."

Learn more at
hpe.com/flexible-capacity

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