**Hewlett Packard Enterprise**

# TD&T achieves solid returns with HPE ProLiant ML350 servers

CPA and consulting firm counts on HPE servers for outstanding performance and reliability



**Objective**
Help ensure smooth business operations, without requiring onsite intervention

**Approach**
Deploy HPE ProLiant ML350 Gen 9 servers across distributed infrastructure

**IT Matters**
- Enable remote management
- Simplify security updates
- Integrate with existing systems
- Minimize downtime
- Prevent data loss

**Business Matters**
- Deliver reliable performance
- Improve efficiency of small IT staff
- Protect confidential data
- Achieve investment protection

With 10 offices across central and southeastern Iowa, TD&T CPAs and Advisors needed a reliable infrastructure to help ensure smooth business operations—without requiring onsite intervention.

The firm's limited IT staff needed to be able to centrally manage server tasks, while also ensuring continuity of critical data and applications. By deploying HPE ProLiant ML350 servers, TD&T gained a rock-solid platform that was easy to manage, secure, and maintain. Plus, HPE server management tools streamlined processes for the busy firm, giving IT more time to focus on key initiatives.

"As a financial institution, we're really concerned about security," says Ian Hougland, the firm's IT manager. "We have lots of confidential information to protect, so we spend a lot of time making sure each server is up to date. We also make sure to check the backups at each office, for added protection."

## Streamlined operations

TD&T prides itself on developing close working relationships with all its clients, reaching far beyond the yearly tax season. But to ensure that the accounting firm can provide high levels of prompt and efficient service, it needs its own infrastructure to perform highly efficiently. The firm's IT staff monitors and manages the health of its servers, networking, and storage at each location, as well as a long list of accounting applications that keep the business running smoothly. Downtime is simply not an option, especially when dealing with auditors and government regulators.

According to Hougland, the HPE ProLiant ML350 Gen9 servers have provided a "night and day difference" when it comes to deploying servers without impacting the business. Built-in tools, such as HPE Intelligent Provisioning, have made it easy to roll out server updates quickly—and with minimal downtime.

"In the past, we had some very late, late nights," explains Hougland. "Everything was just a lot slower. It seemed like it would take eight to ten hours just to copy the data over to a new server. Now, we simply put the servers in place and do it all remotely. A server swap might take a couple hours, tops. And that's mainly for copying data."

TD&T prefers to use physical servers with physical disks in them, rather than a storage area network (SAN). Each office has at least two servers, with the firm itself having a total of 30. The production servers are mainly used for electronic records and document storage, and the external disk backups (via USB 3.0) have proven vital for the firm. "Our backups actually saved us a couple times from malware and CryptoLocker threats," says Hougland. "We've restored quite a bit of data from accidental deletions, corrupt files, and other needs."

## Rock-solid availability

TD&T specializes in helping clients make smart financial decisions, and the firm takes its own advice to heart. For example, the firm first switched to an all-HP infrastructure (including desktops, servers, laptops, etc.) in 2006, thanks to HP's solid reputation in the industry. And they have stuck with the HP technology based on years of proven performance—and investment protection.

"We've been extremely happy with the HPE ProLiant ML350 servers," affirms Hougland. "We still have some of the Gen5 and Gen6 models in production, so we definitely get a long life out of them."

Their HPE ProLiant ML350 Gen9 server has dual power supplies and other redundancy features, which are very important to the firm. Plus, it comes standard with the latest Intel Xeon processors, HPE DDR4 SmartMemory, and support for up to 48 small form factor (SFF) drives. The firm uses 10K RPM SAS drives, configured in a RAID 5 array.

"We don't have any needs beyond what's already on the servers," says Hougland. "We've really had a good experience with them. Their performance has been rock solid."

## More room to grow

As the TD&T business changes and grows, the IT staff is prepared for the infrastructure to grow with it. They can easily manage their HPE ProLiant ML350 servers with built-in software tools that automate the most essential server lifecycle management tasks—deploying, updating, monitoring, and maintaining the servers. The newer models also integrate seamlessly with the business-critical systems already in production.

"It's been interesting to see how the HPE ProLiant ML350 servers have evolved through the different generations," says Hougland. "They are really well engineered and really modular. I've noticed that the Gen9 models hold a lot more drives than the previous generations, and they're almost completely tool-less, which is really nice."

Moving forward, TD&T knows it can count on HPE hardware solutions for proven reliability, server uptime, software continuity, and data redundancy. The firm also likes knowing it can turn to HPE support and services whenever it needs a helping hand.

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## Customer at a Glance

**Application**
Robust servers enable TD&T CPAs and Advisors to deliver efficient accounting services across 10 different offices

**Hardware**
• HPE ProLiant ML350 servers (Gen 9)

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"I would definitely encourage other IT pros to take a look at the HPE ProLiant ML350 product line, and maybe talk to somebody at HPE about the specs and features," concludes Hougland. "The servers have been a really great product for us. I know we've been extremely happy with them, and can't say enough good things about them."

For more information, contact your reseller or visit **hpe.com/servers/ml350gen9**

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