



# Achieving IT excellence with Nimble Storage

All Flash Cloud platform improves key business  
and forestry application performance

## Objective

Complexity of storage management  
burdened the small IT team and sluggish  
performance of apps slowed productivity

## Approach

Assessed available technologies and  
options on the market

## IT Matters

- Simplicity of InfoSight and superior  
helpdesk support saves IT time  
and resources
- Easy integration with Cisco and  
CommVault solutions

## Business Matters

- Faster performance of business  
and forestry applications for staff  
and contractors
- Reduced data center footprint cuts costs



## Challenge

### Better performance of business-critical applications

Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc., (AI-Pac) a subsidiary of Hokuetsu Kishu Paper Co. Ltd., is the largest producer of kraft pulp in North America. The high-quality pulp goes into many different types of paper and products such as tissue, towel, food packaging and filters. For ten years, the company has ranked as one of Canada's Top 100 employers and is also widely recognized for its environmental standards and sustainability.

Over 400 employees regularly access applications such as LIMS, LRM, Navistream and MOPS. These applications assist team members in running overall mill production and optimization, wood procurement, pulp product inventory, land use and truck dispatch. Microsoft Dynamics is also heavily relied upon for pulp sales and logistics.

## Solution

### Initial Nimble deployment produces instant improvements

In early 2016, AI-Pac was ready to find a storage solution that was easier to manage and support than its current environment of EMC and IBM products. After investigating the available technologies and options on the market, the All Flash Cloud platform from Nimble Storage (a Hewlett Packard Enterprise company) was selected as the ideal solution. The first deployment of the Nimble platform within the organization produced dramatic results immediately.

"Literally a day after the Nimble deployment, users shared rave reviews," says Milt Wiese, IT Specialist at Alberta-Pacific. "Overnight, Microsoft Dynamics went from being sluggish to a blazing fast application."

## Case study

Alberta-Pacific Forest  
Industries Inc.

## Industry

Forestry

## Customer at a glance

### HPE Solution

Nimble Storage All Flash Cloud Platform  
Nimble Storage InfoSight

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“Since upgrading to the Nimble Storage All Flash Cloud platform, application performance is vastly improved and the IT team always knows exactly what’s happening across the environment. 97% of our systems run on Nimble, making it a critical part of AI-Pac’s IT strategy moving forward.”

– Milt Wiese, IT specialist, Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc.

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## Benefit

### Futureproofing infrastructure in a flash

AI-Pac’s IT department modernized its infrastructure by implementing a Nimble All Flash array at its main pulp mill site in Boyle, Alberta, in conjunction with a rollout of Cisco UCS servers. As a result of these improvements, AI-Pac anticipates moving to a virtualized desktop infrastructure (VDI) in the next few years.

“We decided that investing in All Flash was worth it as we continue on the path to full virtualization. The integration between Nimble and Cisco is fantastic,” claims Wiese. “Plus, we were able to downsize our datacenter footprint, saving space and costs.”

AI-Pac also implemented two Nimble Adaptive Flash arrays to support operations in Vancouver and disaster recovery functions in Edmonton. In addition, AI-Pac integrated Nimble with its CommVault Intellisnap solution, and finds it easy to set and recover systems using its backup snapshot capabilities during development and testing processes.

### Support Made Simple with InfoSight

Another big issue IT wanted to eradicate was poor technical support that used to tax its very busy IT team. They were relieved to discover that the predictive analytics capabilities of Nimble InfoSight automatically solved most lower level issues. When IT does need to reach out to Nimble for technical support, the team is pleasantly surprised by fast response times and quick resolution of issues.

“With InfoSight, we get an instant temperature reading about what’s happening across the entire IT stack,” says Wiese. “Nimble technical support also responds in an hour or less, that’s unheard of in the industry! It’s a huge bonus for IT not to deal with support processes that drag on for days.”

Learn more at  
[hpe.com/storage/nimble](https://hpe.com/storage/nimble)



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