Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Saint Kentigern Trust advances to a higher level of disaster recovery

New Zealand school enhances the user experience for staff and students

SAINT KENTIGERN

"With HPE SimpliVity we have far more recovery points—and the confidence that we can recover from an incident."

– Walter Chieng, Director of ICT, Saint Kentigern Trust

Hyperconverged solution meets school system's exacting test

As New Zealand's largest coeducational Independent Church Schools group, the Saint Kentigern Trust oversees five schools serving more than 2,800 boys and girls from age 3 to 18 at four schools, as well as a preschool, on three separate campuses in Auckland. The Trust provides information and communication technology (ICT) services used by students, parents, teachers, and staff, who depend on them for a range of connectivity needs, both on the schools' campuses and remotely.

Students from year 7 and above use their personal electronic devices for educational use, demonstrating the Trust's commitment to providing digital resources in a technology-rich environment. With a robust web presence, a parent portal, and electronic resources for staff and students, Saint Kentigern requires a high-availability, high-performance infrastructure to provide the best user experience.

As its ICT environment grew in both size and complexity, the Trust looked to

How Saint Kentigern Trust leads in education

- Long history of academic achievement in New Zealand

- World-class reputation attracts students from around the globe

- Rich digital resources available for students, parents, and faculty

- Dedication to technology leadership

HPE SimpliVity, powered by Intel® Xeon® processor E5-2600, and hyperconvergence to contain infrastructure sprawl while improving performance, manageability, and availability.

Legacy infrastructure challenges a forward-looking educational trust

At the time the Trust began to explore hyperconverged infrastructure, ICT services staff had already virtualized most of the environment, with six VMware hosts running roughly 50 virtualized servers. For a few specific use cases, such as CCTV, the Trust employed physical servers. Two different SAN environments stored roughly 10 TB of data, protected by three different backup solutions. However, the auto-tiering solution offered by the recently upgraded SAN system was not delivering the performance or functionality that the Trust needed.

While the Trust had been fortunate to avoid outages thus far, it realized its environment was vulnerable. Restoring data could take hours. A more serious incident might take a day or more to resolve and would likely require the help of costly external experts. Looking ahead, the organization knew it wanted a solution that would improve disaster recovery (DR) and meet aggressive data-restoration targets.

How HPE SimpliVity simplifies disaster recovery efforts
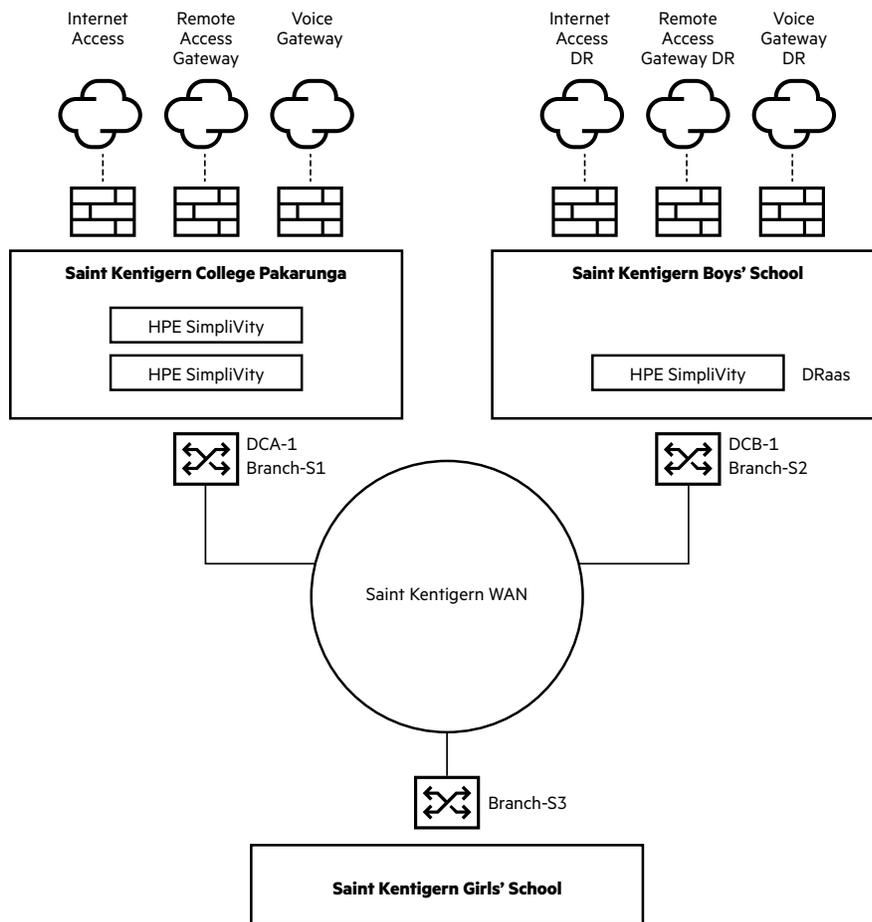
By consolidating its infrastructure to three nodes of HPE SimpliVity, Saint Kentigern has simplified management and achieved always-on availability. ICT services backs up critical servers every 15 minutes and maintains a disaster recovery node on a separate campus.

Maximum

⏱ **1.5** hours

and 4 staff members to restore
services in disaster-recovery drills

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Additionally, with its needs projected to grow, the Trust realized that managing the expanding environment would detract from ICT's core business—providing services to its end users. "We're very conscious that we need to protect our users, because with such a technology-rich environment and connectivity, access is taken for granted these days," says Walter Chieng, director of ICT.

Meeting aggressive targets and restoring services with confidence

Prior to implementing HPE SimpliVity, disaster-recovery exercises required restoring multiple systems and engaging additional engineers—a time-consuming and expensive proposition.

ICT had been working on improving disaster recovery for some time, but before discovering HPE SimpliVity, it hadn't found a single solution that would meet its needs. "We saw HPE SimpliVity as an opportunity to fix that problem," says Chieng.

With HPE SimpliVity, powered by Intel® Xeon® processors, ICT has significantly reduced disaster recovery time thanks to the solution's built-in backup and DR features, which are guaranteed to back up or recover a 1 TB VM in 60 seconds or less. Now ICT services can restore priority services within an hour and a half, using no more than four in-house staff. "We can now consolidate disaster recovery into one practice, one screen, and measure that process," says Matthew Way, technical lead at the Saint Kentigern Trust. For more minor issues, ICT services can recover data from key services with a maximum of 15 minutes' data loss.

Improving manageability

Consolidating infrastructure with HPE SimpliVity provided additional benefits when it came to manageability.

"HPE SimpliVity gave us a single pane of glass for looking at our core infrastructure," says Way. Core ICT services staff can perform key

"We set out to keep our key staff involved on the journey to help them understand how HPE SimpliVity would change the way they work. What it could do was almost unbelievable. The system maintenance window is now so reduced, our staff can spend their time on more high-value work."

– Walter Chieng, Director of ICT, Saint Kentigern Trust

34.2:1

data efficiency ratio and
237 TB in physical capacity
savings.

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functions that previously might have required external support. With quarterly disaster recovery drills, documentation, and training, general ICT services staff are prepared to restore services with minimal effort.

In addition, the new system has made formerly time-consuming tasks, such as restoring data from backups, quick and relatively painless. Saint Kentigern's previous setup used three different backup solutions for different environments; by consolidating and moving to HPE SimpliVity, powered by Intel® Xeon® processor E5-2600, what once could take up to two hours to accomplish can now be done in 15 minutes or less. The organization has achieved a 34.2:1 data efficiency ratio and 237 TB in physical capacity savings.

The improved efficiency has benefited ICT services staff as well as end users. Now that disaster-recovery challenges have been solved, ICT services has more time to devote to innovation and can tackle the next project that will help keep the Saint Kentigern community connected.

"We have to do things differently now because of all the benefits that we have in place," says Chieng. "We can actually sit back and ask, 'Okay, how we will now allocate our time? Now that we have a system that can do a lot of the more mundane tasks in the background, what higher-value work can we be doing?'"

Learn more at
hpe.com/info/simplivity

SAINT KENTIGERN

Objective

Improve reliability, availability, and disaster recovery while reducing IT sprawl.

Approach

Consolidate expanding infrastructure, provide for scalable growth, and simplify processes by moving to HPE SimpliVity, powered by Intel® Xeon® processors.

IT Matters

- Increase availability and boost disaster recovery with a maximum of 15 minutes' data loss

- Reduce backup and system restore times from 2 hours to 15 minutes

- Improve manageability

Business Matters

- Enable ICT staff to focus on core business and innovation

- Increase cost-effectiveness and drive growth

- Deliver a superior user experience

Customer at a Glance

Hardware
- HPE SimpliVity

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