Hewlett Packard Enterprise

HPE SimpliVity upgrades Kirton McConkie's VDI— and then some

Law firm gains remote access and flexibility with a high-performing backend

KIRTON | M^cCONKIE

"When I meet with other IT colleagues, they're always asking about remote access. I've been telling them, 'Well, look at HPE SimpliVity. It's a great solution for VDI, and that's just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what it can do.'"

– David Clark, IT Director, Kirton McConkie

Keeping end users focused on their jobs

Ask any lawyer or law firm manager what their biggest administrative challenge is, and they'll likely say time management. The pressure of billable hours and client demands for lower fees mean law firms need to manage their time as efficiently as possible.

As Utah's largest law firm, with more than 150 lawyers providing full service for a global clientele in practice areas ranging from intellectual property to tax and estate planning, Kirton McConkie was no

stranger to time efficiency. To keep desktop workflows as streamlined as possible, the firm was an early adopter of virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI). But after five years on the job, the technology hosting the VDI was due for an update. However, Kirton McConkie's VDI was hosted on a platform built by V3 Systems, which shut its doors in 2014, thereby eliminating the possibility of upgrading.

In addition, because the technology was early generation, it lacked modern

How VDI keeps Kirton McConkie running efficiently

- Perpetual online desktop maintains the same user experience, regardless of location

- Important legal files and data are always accessible, and always secure

- Lawyers can focus on providing superior professional services to their clients, instead of worrying about their IT infrastructure tools

capabilities such as deduplication and compression, which were still in their infancy at the time the solution was originally purchased. As a result, the firm wasn't backing up its virtual machines (VMs), and disaster recovery was siloed to a separate EVault system.

It was time to look for a new solution that could keep the VDI network up to date, while also providing capabilities for disaster recovery and backup.

The right software on the right server

Kirton McConkie's IT director, David Clark, was a longtime fan of HPE servers and was committed to hosting the new VDI solution on his preferred hardware.

This preference initially led Clark to focus on Datrium because it could be hosted on any software. Clark had seen a demo of SimpliVity prior to the HPE purchase, so he already knew what it could do, but was hesitant because at the time, the solution was only compatible with non-HPE hardware. However, once the news of HPE's purchase was announced, the deal was won. Clark could now host his preferred hyperconverged solution on his preferred brand of servers.

"When HPE purchased SimpliVity and committed to putting it on an HPE platform, that changed our minds fairly quick," says Clark. "I've been an HPE server guy for 30 years. I've worked with hundreds of HPE servers and never had a major issue with any of them. I was really excited to hear that SimpliVity was going to the HPE platform."

Hyperconvergence delivers cloud-like agility with total control

Kirton McConkie needed high performance and agility to flex as needed to accommodate growth and new capabilities. But as a law firm with high compliance standards to meet, it also needed total protection and security for its network and data.

HPE SimpliVity met both these criteria by providing all the agility of cloud within a pre-integrated, hyperconverged building block that combines infrastructure and data services for virtualized workloads onto one HPE ProLiant DL380 Gen9 server.

With HPE SimpliVity, Kirton McConkie could achieve the capacity and flexibility it needed to host an updated VDI. It could also access the data services necessary to incorporate backup, deduplication, and compression—all within the security of its own network.

The speed of the hyperconverged solution has been a game changer for users at Kirton McConkie. In the past, legal staff would work on their physical desktops at the office, but had to use different virtual desktops for home access. Now, with HPE SimpliVity, the desktops can be one and the same. Says Clark: "What I've tried to show our attorneys and staff is, hey, you can work right in your virtual desktop, go home, and you're in exactly the same place you were before. And the speed and performance is the same."

Implementing the solution was a piece of cake, too, thanks to HPE Pointnext services. "They helped us make sure that it got to a

"I have 150 VMs on HPE SimpliVity right now, but I'm only using about 300 GB. To me, that's just incredible. That tells you [HPE SimpliVity] offers significant value. Even with backups and snapshots, my utilization is 80 to 1."

– David Clark, IT Director, Kirton McConkie

80:1 📊

data utilization ratio

🐦 _Tweet this_

point to where we could start the migration. All I had to do was right click on a virtual desktop, say 'migrate,' tell it where to go, and I was essentially done," says Clark.

Starting small, with plans for growth

While Kirton McConkie is currently only using HPE SimpliVity to host its VDI, Clark has plans for taking advantage of the technology's advanced capabilities.

"We're using HPE SimpliVity at a very low level right now," says Clark. "We'll be changing that in the near future. There are a lot of different capabilities that we're not even touching yet that could offer a lot of value. It's just a matter of time, in my opinion."

For now, Clark is focused on ensuring smooth adoption of the upgraded VDI and enjoying his increased capacity. He's able to host significantly more VMs on HPE SimpliVity, using a fraction of the storage space and experiencing a utilization rate of 80 to 1 on average. Future plans include purchasing two more HPE SimpliVity nodes to start migrating backups from the main office to a satellite office.

"When I meet with other IT colleagues, they're always asking about remote access. I've been telling them, 'Well, look at HPE SimpliVity. It's a great solution for VDI, and that's just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what it can do,'" says Clark. "What HPE SimpliVity has done for us in the 3 to 4 months we've had it running has proven that it's just great technology."

Learn more at
www.hpe.com/info/simplivity

KIRTON | MCCONKIE

Objective

Upgrade an outdated VDI and incorporate modern functionality, such as deduplication and compression.

Approach

Migrate the VDI to HPE SimpliVity to gain capacity and efficiency, along with a consistent desktop experience for end users.

IT Matters

- Upgrade to a VDI platform hosted on HPE servers

- Incorporate deduplication and compression technology

- Have a fast, easy startup that doesn't require specialized skills

Business Matters

- Transition to new VDI with minimal disruption

- Ensure security to meet compliance

- Build in agility for future modernization and growth

Customer at a Glance

HPE solution
- HPE SimpliVity

HPE services
- HPE Pointnext

Sign up for updates

Hewlett Packard Enterprise