Espria creates composable platform for digital transformation
Healthcare provider embraces software-defined environment with HPE Synergy

Challenge

Healthcare solutions that are more flexible, personal, and effective
Espria is one of the largest providers of healthcare services in the Netherlands. It operates under seven brands with each delivering a healthcare specialty and all sharing in Espria’s shared business services, including IT.

Like healthcare organizations in many developed countries, Espria is undergoing a period of major transformation. It wants to deliver healthcare services closer to its users, taking many non-emergency interactions out of a healthcare environment and into the community. Part of its mission is to strengthen resilience and self-reliance “to support a person’s wish of staying fully independent as long as possible.”

This requires the business to be more flexible, agile, and personal. Digital transformation is at the heart of this shift. Espria wants patient data to be used more effectively and wants to enable its staff to be mobile in the way they work.

“Digital transformation is our biggest challenge,” says Jeroen Ensink, responsible for IT architecture, Espria. “Traditionally, healthcare IT has a conservative mindset—we have many security, regulatory, and legal issues to consider.

But Espria is a demanding organization, both in terms of healthcare ambitions and operational efficiency.”

Simplicity and long-term planning

A flexible, efficient composable infrastructure is essential in supporting this transformation. As a non-profit, and with limited budget, Espria’s IT strategy favors simplicity, cost efficiency, and long-term planning.

“Costs are a primary consideration,” says Ensink. “You can have a wonderful vision, but without the budget to finance it, the vision is nothing.”

The organization faced an issue with its blade environment. A long-term user of Hewlett Packard Enterprise solutions, Espria had a silo-driven and traditional data center environment. The IT team was happy with the performance of the HPE BladeSystem c7000 chassis but were looking to future-proof the infrastructure with a solution that could keep pace with business demands. The team was concerned over the resources needed to manage the existing environment. In addition, Espria wanted to rein in escalating license costs.

One of the largest healthcare providers in the Netherlands boosts performance by 200%, at half the cost with HPE Synergy
“With HPE Synergy we save 50% on our licensing costs. We need half as many processors and we’re seeing twice as much performance. Basically, we’ve doubled performance for half the cost.”

– Jeroen Ensink, responsible for IT architecture, Espria

**Customer at a glance**

**Hardware**
- HPE Synergy 12000 Frames
- HPE Synergy Gen10 Compute Modules
- HPE Synergy Composer

**HPE Pointnext services**
- HPE Foundation Care

**Software**
- HPE OneView

Learn more at
hpe.com/synergy
hpe.com/oneview
hpe.com/pointnext

**Solution**

**Journey to software-defined, composable infrastructure**

In healthcare, Ensink says, stability trumps risk. This means Espria is not often at the cutting edge of IT technology; it tends to favor evolution over revolution.

“The c7000s were beyond reliable. What we saw with the **HPE Synergy Composable Infrastructure** was a natural evolution. There was no risk,” says Ensink. “The business case for HPE Synergy was obvious.”

Each of Espria’s two data centers include HPE Synergy, together with HPE OneView to manage the entire environment. HPE Synergy provides a composable infrastructure private cloud that bridges traditional and cloud applications in the security of your own data center. The powerful, software-defined solution enables Espria to manage its infrastructure as code, deploying IT resources quickly and for any workload.

“We’re transitioning to a software-defined infrastructure,” says Ensink, “and HPE Composable Infrastructure, delivered through HPE Synergy, presented the best fit of all solutions available.”

**Benefit**

**Double the performance, half the cost**

HPE Synergy delivers immediately against the solution requirements, says Ensink: We save 50% on our licensing costs. We need 50% fewer processors and we’re seeing performance improve by 200%. We’ve doubled performance for half the cost, basically.

“With HPE Synergy Composable Infrastructure though, we’re confident we have the architecture for the future. At present HPE Synergy only serves our VMware infrastructure, starting in 2019 we’ll transfer our Citrix environment from the HPE c7000s to HPE Synergy.”

With less time spent on managing the infrastructure, the focus for the IT team is on value-added services to the business, including steps into DevOps. The business is now better able to support the digital transformation of its seven, patient-facing healthcare specialists. Espria will likely need to respond to these changes in a flexible and agile manner.

“The goal is a complete software-defined environment, and that keeps us busy,” Ensink concludes. “Any efficiencies gained on day-to-day operations can be used to support new services.”

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