Hewlett Packard Enterprise

GIVING SKYHAWK PLATFORM FOR GROWTH, ENHANCED EFFICIENCY

HPE SMB IT solution improves performance with added flexibility

Industry
Chemicals

Objective
Gain compute performance and flexibility to bring enhanced IT efficiency and service quality to the business

Approach
Expand the existing HPE server infrastructure with the HPE ProLiant DL325 Gen10 Server, leveraging flash performance and the HPE iLO manageability

IT matters
- Improves performance of critical financial application
- Saves time with remote management capabilities
- Provides support for future virtualization

Business matters
- Provides scalable platform to support ongoing business growth
- Assures business continuity with greater IT resilience
- Streamlines business processes to enhance customer service

With small business IT solutions from HPE, including the HPE ProLiant DL325 Gen10 Server, Skyhawk Chemicals has a next-generation, flexible platform on which to support ongoing business growth and streamline processes to further enhance service efficiency and customer satisfaction.

Moving chemicals from a manufacturer to an end user is a highly complex and heavily regulated endeavor. It takes a specialist with deep industry knowledge, years of experience, and strong relationships up and down the supply chain. That’s why chemical makers and users all along the U.S. Gulf Coast put their trust in Skyhawk Chemicals.

For more than 30 years, Skyhawk Chemicals has expertly handled all the logistics—from documentation to transportation—to supply many of the nation’s largest industrial enterprises with a wide range of chemicals. It’s a small, family-run business with big responsibilities for protecting its financial data, business files, and documentation. When it comes to information technology, Skyhawk relies on Hewlett Packard Enterprise.
Travis Ellis, Skyhawk’s vice president of technology, says, “HPE servers have always been real workhorses. Every server generation gets better and better.”

Skyhawk recently added the HPE ProLiant DL325 Gen10 Server to complement its existing HPE ProLiant DL160 Server. Ellis self-deployed the new server using intelligent provisioning and now plans to keep both servers active. “The DL160 is such a great piece of hardware, there’s no reason to take it offline. We’ll benefit from the server redundancy, while the DL325 provides the latest generation of capabilities to carry the business forward.”

LEVERAGING IT TO KEEP CUSTOMERS HAPPY

The HPE ProLiant DL325 Gen10 Server, running Microsoft Windows Server 2016, is configured with flash drives to maximize performance for critical applications such as Sage MAS accounting software. The new server also provides file services and local access to Skyhawk’s cloud-based document management system. The DL160 is running Windows Server 2012 and handles Active Directory and DNS services.

While Ellis is not taking advantage of virtualization today, Ellis says, “We are looking at virtualization down the road, so that was a key consideration in choosing the DL325. In general, we wanted room to grow. With the DL325, I’m confident if we need more power or more capacity in the future, we can expand as needed. It gives us a lot of flexibility.”

Another advantage of choosing the HPE Gen10 servers was the HPE Integrated Lights Out (iLO) remote server management. For Ellis, the enhanced HPE iLO feature makes it easier to update and manage the server without any third-party software. “I can get into the iLO remotely,” he points out. “It really simplifies administration and is definitely a time saver. It also gives me peace of mind knowing if I need to take care of something on the server, I can do it from anywhere without having to drive all the way back to the office.”

Having a next-generation server, as well as redundancy, Ellis believes he now has a solid IT platform to help the business grow and deliver the highest quality of service to its customers. “Every little bit we can do in IT to streamline processes makes it easier for our accounting and customer service reps to do their jobs and keep our customers happy.”

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