

Nominee: NetApp

Nomination title: NetApp StorageGRID Webscale object storage

NetApp StorageGRID Webscale object storage embodies scalability and flexibility, as it's not only available as part of a modular architecture - where users can expand systems rapidly with ready-to-deploy appliances - but as a standalone software solution with support for third party storage arrays and much more.

Regardless of business size, buying into StorageGRID Webscale provides users with a truly scalable platform starting at a single appliance with less than 50TB, to a 70PB system capable of managing 100 billion objects and support for 16 geo-distributed sites. NetApp E-series hardware installations benefit from a space efficient combination of storage and compute in a single chassis.

As the value of data changes over time, objects need to be prioritised and moved to ensure efficient use of storage. StorageGRID Webscale has in place object lifecycle policies to manage objects with automated data placement and dynamic policy engine functions. These features ensure the vast number of objects that can be created for sysadmins to oversee, are easy to maintain and manage. Moreover, data protection is ensured with hierarchical erasure coding and replication across geo-distributed sites.

NetApp's 10th generation object storage platform delivers enterprise grade performance and reliability. StorageGRID Webscale object storage takes full advantage of the dedicated compute available and its storage management capabilities reduce reliance on hypervisors, cutting licensing requirements and lowering costs in the process.

Data integrity is enhanced with Dynamic Disk Pools (DDP) that can utilise every drive in the pool to rebuild a failed drive. Using an intelligent algorithm, a system can be returned to an optimal condition up to eight times faster than RAID, significantly lessening the impact of drive failures on system performance.

NetApp's world class support includes its Customer Success Operations that actively engage with users to educate and inform them. Critically, its proactive AutoSupport monitoring of

hardware and software functionality performs health check routines and analyses logs, reporting findings to ensure system stability is maintained.

As the mass of unstructured data continues to grow, traditional storage approaches are unsustainable in the long term. NetApp StorageGRID Webscale is designed to meet the cumulative challenges that arise from applications and devices creating petabytes of data, as well as huge data resources in content stores in globally distributed locations.

NetApp is enabling operational models to change, where sysadmins who once handled several hundred terabytes of storage can work just as comfortably managing petabytes of storage. StorageGRID Webscale also enables the transformation of legacy infrastructure, accommodating non-disruptive, zero downtime deployments, rather than 'rip and replace'.

Customers are assured of 24/7 access from any location or device with IT delivering on the security and integrity of their data. Longer term business needs and compliance requirements are catered for with strategic options that ensure data can outlive its underlying storage infrastructure by many generations. In the here and now, clients can store unstructured data and contain costs without sacrificing needs for performance, durability and availability.

To this end, NetApp delivers an integrated single vendor solution with large object capabilities and performance at scale. Its deployment flexibility is such that software defined and/or appliance systems can be configured quickly and easily, offering enterprise support for the full hardware/software stack.

NetApp continues to maintain its leading position in offering real business value with features such as its multi-site capabilities combined with its object lifecycle policy and automated functions for data placement. In scenarios such as hybrid cloud configurations, its dynamic policy engine can manage data based on a host of requirements, such as latency, geo-location, network link cost and evaluate objects to decide the type of storage to be used and the data retention policy.

NetApp customer Advanced Unibyte (AU) offers comprehensive IT solutions in the critical areas of high availability and data protection. It has been awarded Best System House many

times over but recognised that it needed to adapt its range of services to better suit the market shift towards digitalisation, IoT and the Cloud.

“Our old storage solution was extremely static and not agile,” explains Bruno Stanek, Director of Solution Architects at AU. “We were not flexible when it came to our customer systems and, therefore, were only able to support extremely limited configurations and solutions.”

As a longstanding NetApp partner, AU had the expertise to undertake the installation itself, completing the deployment in rapid time. The company chose NetApp AltaVault to form the basis of its new solution, which functions as a cloud gateway during backup.

The solution delivers extremely fast data storage to the cloud with functions such as inline deduplication and compression geared to maximise the speed of data transfers, while also reducing storage capacity demands. NetApp E-series hardware delivers the necessary scalability with StorageGRID Webscale installed to optimise the storage capacity of rapidly growing volumes of unstructured data. StorageGRID Webscale also enables the company to satisfy data retention criteria ensuring availability and performance in line with customer requirements.

AU now benefits from having a completely new cloud solution to handle replication services from its customers’ physical servers for disaster recovery. Customers see their own systems reflected and safely stored in one of the most secure data centres in the country, enabled by NetApp’s proven technologies. And when it matters most, AU’s systems deliver fast and reliable recovery of important customer data in a matter of minutes.

Being a highly scalable solution, service providers can easily manage data centre expansion as customer demand grows and, for AU, it has been transformative, as Stanek explains, “Our own cloud service has been expanded considerably. We are now in a position to serve the entire market, regardless of whether customers use NetApp solutions or not.”

The task of accommodating and managing unstructured data and all its capacity demands has enabled AU’s business to flourish due in no small part to StorageGRID Webscale. Its flexibility delivers a broad range of horizontal solutions that allow AU’s business to embrace

the changes and the challenges to meet customer expectations of providing secure, fast, transparent and reliable data storage environments.

Why nominee should win

- 1. Solution scalability up to 100 billion objects, 70PB capacity and 16 geo-distributed sites**
- 2. Integrated single vendor solution deployable as software defined and/or appliance**
- 3. Space efficient and easily expandable: optimised storage and compute combined into a single chassis**
- 4. Most comprehensive data policy/service catalogue capability**
- 5. Meets unstructured data storage requirements for durability, availability and performance**