HyperGrid™ delivers almost $1.3 million IT cost savings for global relief and development agency

Customer Background

Tearfund is a Christian charity that works to alleviate poverty across the world. Operating in Asia, Africa and South and Central America, Tearfund has reached over 29 million people through community development projects and a network of over 100,000 churches.

Challenges

» Increasing management costs with an aging, out-of-date infrastructure

» Extended processing time for key workloads and applications delayed projects and interfered with the charity's activities

» Inefficient technology and design limitations caused an increase in power and cooling costs

» Resources wasted on IT management, instead of allocated on projects to support works of charity

Solution

» Reduced processing time from 12 hours to 20 minutes, enabling Tearfund to ensure the successful implementation of several projects

» Total savings of over $1 million over the five-year lifetime of the solution.

   - Reduced electricity consumption from 22KW/h to just 3KW/h, saving approximately $260,000

   - Additional savings of approximately $973,000 over 5 years through reduced maintenance and engineering costs

» Ability to innovate on new projects to better achieve the goals of the charity

> As a charity we do not often get the opportunity to adopt truly world-leading technology, but HyperGrid has given us that opportunity. I have worked in the IT sector for 25 years, and this has been, by some distance, the easiest, smoothest project that I have ever managed. We have had fantastic support from HyperGrid throughout the process, from the reassurance and rigorous testing that we completed in the pre-sales period, to first-class support throughout the project. HyperGrid has met absolutely every requirement we set, and we couldn't be happier with the solution.
>
> – Stuart Hall, Infrastructure Lead at Tearfund

Simple, consolidated infrastructure

Infrastructure before:

» Three-tier IT infrastructure over seven 42U racks, across 3 data centres

» Three high-end C7000 HPE Bladecentre chassis - each with eight blades

» Approximately 70TB of Lefthand SAN (SAS) storage

» Cisco and Brocade switching

Infrastructure after:

» Single cloud infrastructure with centralised management

» Accelerate application deployment with templates, assuring the team of consistency

» Two three-node all-SSD HyperCloud™ platforms, occupying 6U of rack space including the associated switching.

» Management and maintenance no longer required

Challenge

Stuart Hall, Infrastructure lead explains the specific problems faced in the industry: "It is essential for non-profits and charities to operate as efficiently as possible to maximize their financial resources, and it was clear that our outdated IT infrastructure had to be upgraded to reduce costs and free up more money for the charity's projects. We faced several challenges including slow processing speed, high electricity consumption and pressure on IT staff resources. We needed to resolve all of these issues to minimize the impact of IT services on the charity's bottom line."

Performance was also a concern. Processing time for critical activities was up to 12 hours. There were additional concerns around support of OLAP cubes. This prevented Tearfund from executing activities that contributed to the success of the charity's projects. Another concern was the high energy consumption. Donations must be spent as efficiently as possible, and power costs were high, consuming 22KW/h. Management and maintenance was also an issue, sometimes half a day was spend configuring a VM. This made it difficult to retain top talent when so much time is spent on repetitive tasks instead of innovative work.

Solution

Tearfund began surveying the IT market with a view to upgrading its existing infrastructure to an on-premise, cloud-based solution. It evaluated HyperGrid and a competing vendor and the goal was to demonstrate that the processing time was under one hour.

Stuart Hall says: "HyperGrid was able to reduce processing time to just 20 minutes from 12 hours, a phenomenal achievement and well below our target. We have since purchased two HyperCloud™ platforms, one for production and a second for full failover capacity for BCP (Business Continuity Planning) at our remote data center."

HyperGrid deployed its cutting edge HyperCloud™ Platform-aaS, enabling Tearfund to consolidate its IT infrastructure, to a single private cloud platform under a common management framework. Tearfund is able to focus on efficient application and service delivering to the organization. They can also continue to use their existing management toolsets and frameworks, with no need to change its day-to-day DevOps management processes.

Results

The reliability and simplicity of HyperGrid's solution ensures that the team does not have to learn how to use new tools and management interfaces, enabling the IT staff to work on more interesting and engaging IT projects, rather than spending so much of their time on traditional and repetitive IT tasks. HyperGrid's on-premise solution has significantly improved processing speed, outperforming Tearfund's specified requirements and ensuring that key activities that are crucial to the success of the charity's projects are not delayed by IT processes.

HYPERGRID™