City of Yamaga Improves Security and Performance with Zadara

Using Zadara's enterprise storage-as-a-service, City of Yamaga provides their 1000 VDI users scalable, secure enterprise-class storage.

The city of Yamaga in the Kumamoto prefecture of Japan launched a far reaching initiative to enhance and improve their aging IT infrastructure. One of the key components to the IT refresh was to replace their older PC-based client/server architecture with 1000 VDI systems, centralizing all of their data on an agile storage infrastructure. This would eliminate their data from being distributed — and exposed — on the 1000 PCs controlled by their users.

Zadara recommended by Computer Dynamics.

Computer Dynamics, a Zadara Storage partner and leading IT consultancy firm worked closely with the Yamaga management to identify the correct storage solution. After considering a variety of approaches, the Yamaga team decided on the Zadara Virtual Private Storage Array (VPSA) solution.

An aging NetApp array, complex and difficult to manage.

With Zadara, the Yamaga team could deploy a fully-featured enterprise-class storage array that included all of the high-availability and business continuity features they had been looking for. Their new configuration provides each of their 1000 users a VDI-based interface for access to critical applications. To eliminate the security and availability concerns of the prior PC-based infrasturcture, the data were moved off of the local client and onto the Zadara VPSA.

Snapshots, redundancy, and high availability.

To ensure high availability, Computer Dynamics helped the Yamaga team architect a redundant configuration of five VPSAs where the data are mirrored between multiple storage instances protecting against failures. To enable additional levels of data protection, VPSA-based snapshots are created to allow users to instantly 'roll back' to prior points in time should deleted files need to be recovered or other incidents occur impacting data integrity, such as a virus attack. Finally, with the Zadara VPSA, storage resoures can be added, removed or even upgraded non-disruptively, guaranteeing system access even during maintenance and upgrades

Summary:
The city of Yamaga needed to replace a PC-based client/server architecture to address security, availability, scalability and management challenges.

Challenges:
- Users were storing critical data on PCs exposing government data
- Threat of disasters impacted business continuity goals
- Employee turnover required data migration, requiring significant effort and possible downtime

Solution:
- Yamaga city officials replaced their existing system with a VDI architecture and a Zadara VPSA storage infrastructure

Results:
- All government data is now centrally managed and protected on Zadara VPSA-based storage.
- Replication, snapshots and encryption enable business continuity and data security.
- 1000 VDI users have better response time, agility and security

No 'noisy neighbor' problem.

Centralizing Yamaga's applications ran the risk of creating a "noisy neighbor" scenario. Should one of their applications consume large amounts of resource, however, it will have zero impact on other applications due to Zadara's performance isolation capabilities. This guarantees 100% performance for each of their application instances.

Reduced management burden and costs.

The Yamaga team also wanted to reduce their overall acquisition and management costs. Zadara's VPSA Software Defined Storage (SDS) architecture provides significant economic savings. Additionally, Computer Dynamics provides the Yamaga team with remote monitoring, reducing the administrative burden assosicated with storage management. The VPSA solution also gives Yamaga a set of centralized storage management tools, allowing them to centrally manage the storage resources and even 'charge back' to various departments based on usage.

Protected and prepared, whatever the future brings.

Looking forward, the Yamaga team is comfortable that their new storage architecture protects them against any potential disaster and that their data are secure and safe. They no longer need to worry about their data being distributed on remote PCs, since the data are now centralized on enterprise-grade Zadara VPSA storage resources. Finally, with Computer Dynamics monitoring their storage and expanding or upgrading it non-disruptively, they no longer need to worry about replacing it every three to five years, as they would with traditional storage arrays.

"With Zadara's data encryption, mirroring and snapshot features, we are now safer and more agile."

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