

AMB INCREASES STORAGE SPEED TWENTYFOLD

Storage capacity to be updated at an active-active data center with specific networking needs: 4IT Solutions assists Azienda Multiservizi Bellinzona (AMB) in the leap to all-flash technology with Dell EMC SC Series Compellent.



Services

Switzerland

www.amb.ch/

Needs

A sophisticated upgrade to a stretched cluster

Matteo Jemini has led AMB's Telecommunications unit for the last four years and has experienced first hand the development of the services provided by this municipalized firm towards an increasingly thorough coverage of online services and connectivity. "We are an Internet provider, and we will connect 22,000 users by 2020 to ensure connectivity, fixed-line telephony, and Internet TV under the Wambo.ch brand", Jemini explains. "We provide more complex IT services, supported by our data center, to the collection of municipalities and to non-profit organizations". Jemini's team provides, among other services, the functions of the IT infrastructure to over 300 municipal employees. For this reason, over time AMB has developed a proprietary active-active data center at two separate sites that features over 300 servers virtualized with the help of VMware technology. The data center

Solutions at a Glance

- [Dell EMC SC Series Compellent Appliances](#)

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Azienda Multiservizi Bellinzona

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GRATER THAN
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includes a storage system that was reaching the end of its life cycle and needed to be upgraded, given the significant increase in volumes of data processed and, above all, in the number of users served by the systems for all of the municipal services, including those that require greater levels of performance. Jemini began the assessment process for the technology upgrade and turned to 4IT Solutions in order to scout out the best solutions that would ensure the highest levels of performance, while providing a favorable price-to-quality ratio and, above all, ensuring networking compatibility with the stretched cluster on which the AMB data center is based across the two active-active sites.

Solution

The selection of Dell EMC

4IT Solutions is very familiar with AMB's IT infrastructure because they helped create it and manage its virtualization. Out of the shortlist of solutions proposed by 4IT Solutions consultants, what emerged was a solution of smart all-flash storage using high-performance Intel® Xeon® processors: Dell EMC SC Series Compellent. It was a technological leap for AMB, as they shifted from traditional magnetic disks to all-flash technology. "We collaborated well with 4IT Solutions on this project", says Jemini. "We have been working with them for a number of years, and they have gained a great deal of experience in infrastructure management. We came to the decision together to go with the Dell EMC all-flash storage solution within the framework of project customized to our specific needs".

Following the municipal resolution authorizing and financing the project, AMB prepared the networking infrastructure and entrusted 4IT Solutions with the provision and implementation of the Dell EMC SC Series Compellent servers and appliances. "We executed a parallel migration that maintained the functioning of the legacy solutions and gave priority to the less-used services before moving on to those of more critical importance, all without interrupting system functioning", explains Simone Cristina, head of Delivery Services for 4IT Solutions. The project was completed in less than a month, and by June 2018 AMB's IT infrastructure had a storage service that ensured much greater performance.



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Benefits

The leap to all-flash technology

Not only did the more than 300 municipal employees who make use of the services provided by the AMB data center not notice the migration at all, they can now benefit from greater storage space. They have also noticed the increased performance in a number of their analyses for which they were previously used to greater wait times. One of the most significant results concerns read and write speeds, which are measured in input/output operations per second (IOPS), speeds that increased more than twentyfold, in addition to the increase in storage speed as a result of the move from magnetic disks to full-flash technology. As for system management and maintenance, the new Dell EMC storage equipment integrated perfectly with the existing VMware virtual infrastructure and can be managed from the same control panel that covers all of the data center's server resources. "Thanks to the active-active, all-flash architecture of the new Dell EMC SC Series Compellent appliances, we increased read and write speeds by 20 times to more than 80,000 IOPS", says Jemini. "It gives us peace of mind for current operations and for future scalability, given that the architecture enables us to add new racks while maintaining the same server configuration".



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Profile

A multi-service 2.0 enterprise

Azienda Multiservizi Bellinzona (AMB) is an enterprise providing operational support in energy and environmental policy and industrial promotion for the new City of Bellinzona and for the aggregation of 17 municipalities in Canton Ticino (Switzerland), including online services to the general public as well as energy and environmental services. The Telecommunications unit, which was established at the end of 2004, provides government, enterprise, and the general public with advanced online and multimedia services and has invested in the creation of a fiber-optic network while promoting the dissemination of telecommunication services and responding to the growing needs of a society in which it is increasingly important to be able to be online all the time wherever you may be.

4IT Solutions

Born as a spinoff of a company with thirty years of experience in the field, 4IT Solutions provides high-profile IT solutions to customers of all sizes and industries. Consulting, training and partnership with the main technological players worldwide, are the competitive advantages of the company.

This features integrate with the ability to listen and correctly interpret the needs and objectives of customers to suggest, design and implement IT infrastructures that meet the real needs, ensuring operations and total support. On the strength of its technological and commercial skills, 4IT Solutions also boasts (a unique case in the Canton of Ticino) a distance consulting service in Italian, English, French and German.