Valley Medical Center Grows with Dell EqualLogic iSCSI SANs and Mosaic Technology

Valley Medical Center

Valley Medical Center (VMC), founded in 1945, was Washington State's first public district hospital. Today it is the largest nonprofit healthcare provider between Seattle and Tacoma. VMC serves over 400,000 residents as a regional center operating a network of 12 community clinics throughout King County. VMC's central hospital in Renton offers medical, surgical, and 24-hour emergency care as a Level III trauma center.

In addition, VMC is a regional resource with recognized Centers of Excellence in Birth, Sleep, Joint, and Stroke care and provides specialized treatment in cardiology, oncology, high-risk obstetrics, orthopedics, neonatal, cancer and neurology.

Like many health facilities VMC is constantly updating and refining its IT infrastructure to meet growing information access and compliance demands. With 312 beds and over 1000 users those IT demands are substantial.

Virtualization and Storage

VMC's storage environment consisted of an EMC fiber based SAN system at the high end and additional direct attached storage at the individual server level.

Jordan Wiseman, Sr. Systems Administrator at VMC, recognized the need for a mid-tier storage alternative – especially since VMC was consolidating servers with VMware.

While attending a VMware users group meeting Mr. Wiseman saw a demo of a Dell EqualLogic iSCSI SAN.

"I was amazed at the technology," said Wiseman. It's quite impressive to see someone removing components like disk drives and power supplies and see the array continue to run flawlessly. I was definitely intrigued."

Company	**Valley Medical Center**
Located	**Renton, WA**
Industry	**Healthcare**
Concern	**Implementing a mid-tier storage solution to meet growth and disaster recovery requirements.**
Solution	**Work with Mosaic Technology to facilitate identification and acquisition of Dell EqualLogic iSCSI SANs.**

"The Dell EqualLogic SAN is a great solution because it includes all the management tools we need. We don't get nickeled and dimed for software and add-ons which also makes it easier on our procurement group. Mosaic gives us good value on the arrays. They also were instrumental in helping us get our email under control with Mimosa NearPoint. They're a good partner to VMC."

Jordan Wiseman
Sr. Systems Administrator
Valley Medical Center

Following the VMware meeting Mr. Wiseman engaged with EqualLogic who in turn recommended Mosaic Technology, an EqualLogic premier partner, to work with VMC

Dell EqualLogic – A Complete Storage Solution

VMC discovered that EqualLogic's PS series offered a complete hardware/software solution that was simple to install and easy to manage. Unlike other storage arrays considered, the PS Series comes complete with all software features needed to create and run a storage area network. There was no need to purchase additional software or professional services to benefit from the included data management and protection features such as replication.

Based on a Peer Storage Architecture (PS) components and arrays share resources, distribute loads, and collaborate for maximum performance, data protection, and seamless scaling.

PS Series arrays can be fully functioning within 60 minutes after opening the box. They also:
- o Continuously monitor resources and automatically manage configuration, load-balancing, capacity expansion, storage pools and tiers, volume snapshots, and replication.
- o Provide online, on-demand capacity expansion without disruption, including dynamic allocation of disk space, connectivity, security, and performance for every application.
- o Deliver comprehensive system monitoring, proactive disk drive scanning, group event notifications, multi-pathing, instant recovery, and disaster protection.
- o Provide a toolkit to facilitate deployment, ongoing management, and protection of PS Series SANs in Microsoft Windows OS environments.

VMC deploys Dell EqualLogic

Since Mr. Wiseman's initial introduction to EqualLogic and Mosaic, VMC has deployed five PS arrays. Three are in production supporting FS and MS Exchange servers among others. The other two are in the test and development phase of supporting replication (a capability included with PS SANs) in support of their disaster recovery plan.

With Dell SANs VMC has found and implemented a secondary data storage level that is cost effective and easy to manage. They also found a trusted technology partner in Mosaic.

Mosaic and VMC

Based on the success of their collaboration on iSCSI storage, Mosaic and VMC expanded their relationship. Mosaic helped VMC evaluate and implement an email management solution -- Mimosa's NearPoint Archiving, eDiscovery, Recovery, & Storage Management solution.

VMC now has 2400 mailboxes (1000 can be described as heavy users) in four data stores under NeartPoint control using EqualLogic SANs. Mimosa streamlines operations and helps VMC meet compliance objectives.

About Mosaic Technology

For over 15 years Mosaic Technology has provided IT Infrastructure solutions to companies around the world. We help companies evaluate their IT environments and develop solutions that meet IT and business needs. We deliver solutions that are easy to install, easy to use, and deliver immediate and long term ROI.

Based in Salem, NH, Mosaic has sales and technical offices throughout the United States and associates worldwide. We provide virtualization, data storage and management, and email solutions designed with technology from companies such as VMware, Dell, Dell EqualLogic EMC, Hitachi, Exagrid, Data Domain, CommVault, Sun, Cisco, and Symantec.