

Providing a Healthy Environment for Growth

Lurvey utilizes a hybrid IT infrastructure equipped with Hewlett Packard Enterprise solutions

Objective

Provide scalable, efficient computing resources, services and software

Approach

Deploy a hybrid IT infrastructure with HPE ProLiant DL360 servers, Modular Storage Array 1040 and cloud

IT Matters

- Leverage existing investments
- Improve server infrastructure
- Boost reliability and security
- Simplify file storage and management

Business Matters

- Provide a better communication platform
- Support a great customer experience
- Enable better customer support



Nobody who works at Lurvey Supply is afraid to get their hands dirty. Since 1978, the company has been providing Chicago and its surrounding communities with high-quality landscape products and unparalleled customer service. Lurvey has built its reputation on offering the largest variety of fresh, top-tier plant and hardscape material in the Midwest.

For Mike McKirchy, Lurvey's one-man IT department, this means ensuring the company's 170+ users and their devices are always working to support the extraordinary customer experience each of Lurvey's thousands of loyal customers expect, every time they interact with the company.

In addition to managing all the technology and equipment at Lurvey's four wholesale and one retail location, McKirchy manages the website, e-commerce, site-to-site communications, storage capacity and network security. He also manages the 10 servers Lurvey relies on to keep everything running smoothly.

While McKirchy may not be working the soil, he takes a very hands-on approach to managing each of Lurvey's many technology-driven services.



“When you’re an IT department of one, it’s important that you can handle the challenges that arise without having to stop everything else to do it,” he explains. “We wanted to improve our server infrastructure so that we could be even more reliable and more secure, while offering a better platform for communicating with our employees and our customers.”

“That’s why we went with a hybrid IT infrastructure.”

Evolving demands and expectations require a new approach to IT infrastructure

Organizations are placing increasingly complex demands on their IT infrastructure in order to keep up with rapidly evolving technology and customer expectations. IT pros need infrastructure that is flexible and scalable enough to meet these demands while also being manageable and secure.

While an on-premises IT infrastructure provides IT staff with control over data, security, and performance, on-premises IT can also be more difficult to manage and expensive to scale.

The cloud is an excellent option for quickly increasing scalability and simplifying management. It also offers world-class solutions for nearly any business task. And it doesn’t require a big investment in new hardware and software, or a large team to manage.

But the cloud offers its own set of concerns to IT managers.

“One of the things I’ve noticed, especially with public cloud-based services, is that it’s kind of difficult to get a deeper view of what’s happening in the network, and to take ownership of something if you need to,” says McKirchy. “A lot of employees are uploading files to the cloud on their own, and it scares me when I can’t see and can’t really administer what they’re doing.”

Like many of his peers, McKirchy was also concerned about other cloud-related issues, like control of solutions, application performance and the ability to leverage his existing IT investments.

The solution that made the most sense for McKirchy and Lurvey was a hybrid IT infrastructure that included HPE equipment and solutions.

Hybrid IT infrastructure can be tailored to a customer’s needs

“My definition of hybrid IT is providing computing resources, both onsite and offsite, whether it’s a private cloud or a public cloud, to accomplish my business objectives,” says McKirchy.

An effective hybrid IT infrastructure is a combination of on-premises IT and cloud services gives IT managers the freedom to decide which workloads to move to the cloud and which to keep on-premises. The result is a customized infrastructure that provides valuable benefits without an expensive price tag.

With a hybrid IT infrastructure, companies don’t have to sacrifice any of the advantages of on-premises or cloud-based IT to realize better performance at a lower cost. A hybrid infrastructure can scale instantly to meet changing business conditions without the need to invest in new hardware and software or accommodate spikes in demand. This is especially important for businesses that can experience dramatic and seasonal workload changes—like landscaping.

A hybrid IT infrastructure also makes managing IT budgets more predictable, as costs can be adjusted by deciding which infrastructure should be kept on-premises, and which should be managed through the cloud. Plus, applications deployed in the cloud do not require specialized resources to manage them. Updates are installed automatically, ensuring that IT staff always have access to the latest features and security patches.

“When we were putting together our hybrid IT environment, we evaluated equipment and solutions from a variety of vendors...but no one really compared with what HPE offered. The difference in quality of product and support was significant.”

“With a hybrid IT infrastructure, I can control which applications I want to keep close, like point-of-sale and inventory control, while storing and managing other files, like photos and videos in the cloud,” McKirchy explains. “Our hybrid environment enables us to provide scalable and efficient computing resources, services and software for our employees *and* customers.”

Equipment is key to a high-performance, cost-effective hybrid infrastructure

A lot of consideration is required to properly provision a high-performance, cost-effective hybrid IT environment. This includes decisions about equipment, and especially servers.

“When we were putting together our hybrid IT environment, we evaluated equipment and solutions from a variety of vendors,” says McKirchy. But in my opinion, no one really compared with what HPE offered. The difference in quality of product and support was significant.”

For Lurvey’s hybrid infrastructure, McKirchy selected a range of HPE products, including HPE ProLiant DL360 (Gen 8) servers with the HPE Modular Storage Array (MSA) 1040. And Lurvey continues to use existing DL360 Gen 6 servers, which work well with all the new equipment and applications.

“HPE’s servers, switches and SANs have proven to be extremely reliable,” says McKirchy. “And HPE support is outstanding. When you’re a one-man shop like me, you depend on manufacturer support for a lot. I’ve been using HPE equipment for more than ten years and we’ve really never had any problems.”

From the warranty support to the reliability of the servers to the cost-effectiveness of solutions, HPE just makes better sense.”

The hybrid infrastructure supports wired and wireless platforms, which is important because Lurvey has so many staff and equipment in the field and at remote locations. The environment includes on-premises backup for secure, easy-access storage, with cloud storage used to store other business-critical information, such as accounting data.



Customer at a Glance

Application

A hybrid IT environment enables Lurvey to provide scalable and efficient computing resources, services and software.

Hardware

- HPE ProLiant DL360 servers (Gen 8 and Gen 6)
- HPE Modular Storage Array (MSA) 1040



Peace of mind that extends beyond the infrastructure

“One of the benefits I didn’t anticipate from having a hybrid IT environment is how much easier it really made my job and my life,” McKirchy says. “One simple but substantial difference is that I no longer have to wait for everyone to be out of the system in order to reboot a server. Now I just migrate it live.”

Find out how a hybrid IT infrastructure can benefit your business and free up IT staff to be more effective than ever.

For more information, contact your reseller or visit:

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