



Telecommunications equipment company streamlines management

HPE Synergy delivers 'idea economy' speed for leading semiconductor developer

Objective

Implement a new platform for greater flexibility and speedier deployments

Approach

Researched the market then ran a Proof of Concept on HPE Synergy

IT Matters

- Reduces firmware and configuration update times for each of the 16 blades from 30 minutes to two minutes
- Eliminates manual processes which cuts VLAN creation times from ten minutes per blade to ten minutes for all 16 blades
- Releases engineers from routine management to work on more creative projects

Business Matters

- Accelerates service delivery to increase productivity and corporate efficiency
- Improves time-to-value for new projects
- Delivers the agility to meet unknown future demands



With constantly developing workloads, the company's IT staff needed a more agile and flexible compute and storage platform. HPE Synergy has enabled them to streamline management and provisioning and provides the versatility to meet unknown future demands.

Challenge

Need for greater flexibility and speed

Leading American semiconductor and telecommunications equipment company has over 30,000 staff at 224 worldwide locations. It designs and markets telecom products and services and has played a vital part in establishing key cellular standards that are the backbone of mobile phone communication.

The company's work is at the epicenter of technological innovation and its projects grow and evolve at 'idea economy' speeds where disruption is the watchword and success is defined by the ability to turn ideas into value faster than the competition.

“HPE Synergy means that we are ready for whatever comes along. If we need to expand or create new environments, it allows us to easily leverage profiles and configuration set ups quickly. We just have to purchase the hardware, slide it in and basically we’re ready to go.”

- Spokesperson, telecommunications company

While its previous deployments of traditional HPE blade systems provided performance and stability, the company required an infrastructure that could change quickly under its OpenStack-based development environment.

Fellow software application engineers handle DevOps for developers that write in-house applications to support carrier data analytics for the company. “The team who we work for have projects and initiatives and their workloads are always increasing,” says the spokesperson.

“We need to deliver fast, so we decided to look for a new platform that was more flexible and quicker to deploy. Our experience with traditional blades is that each of them must be managed individually, whether it be firmware upgrades, modifying networking, or configuring server profiles. For example, adding a VLAN to a trunk for multiple blades is an arduous task and it’s easy to make a mistake when modifying network configurations for multiple profiles. HPE Synergy allows us ease of deployment and configuration and a single management pane.”

Solution

Solid and proven base

Although traditionally an HPE blade user, the company was also familiar with other vendor offerings and had considered hyper-converged solutions. However, it decided that HPE Synergy was the way to go.

HPE Synergy brings compute, network and storage infrastructures together as a single platform, creating fluid resource pools managed through a single API. HPE Synergy is software-defined and enables users to quickly program and provision their whole infrastructure in a very automated way.

“A Proof of Concept on Synergy had been run by a different team and one of our decision makers had knowledge of the results. We also had multiple meetings where the HPE pre-sales teams gave us further background information,” says the spokesperson. “We had a lot of planning meetings where we dealt with sizing, use cases and recommended configurations. They really took steps to ensure that when the hardware landed and was installed we would be able to bring it up in the way that we envisioned it.”

Case study

Telecommunications
company

Industry

Mobile telecommunications



“Another reason why we decided to go with this solution was because it is based on previous generations of blades that are solid and proven.”

The spokesperson adds: “We knew who we needed to get hold of if there was a problem and that we would have support with the implementation, so we felt comfortable using Synergy to run production workloads. HPE also provided a one-day class of in-depth education.”

The company runs three HPE Synergy 12000 frames in a co-location facility. They include 14 HPE Synergy 480 Gen9 compute modules, two of which are acting as storage heads in the OpenStack environment and the remaining 12 acting as compute heads. Two Serial Attached SCSI (SAS) drive trays are used for software defined storage and there are two HPE OneView-based Synergy composers.

The company runs the Rancher application catalog for document orchestration. It also made use of the HPE Factory Express service for customized integration, implementation and support services and training credits.

Benefit

Eliminating time-consuming manual processes

Accelerated service delivery, streamlined provisioning and automation are just some of the advantages the company is seeing through the use of HPE OneView single-pane management in its Synergy controllers.

“Previously we had to physically apply profiles to each individual server. With HPE OneView, being able to apply these profiles to multiple blades at one time ensures that they are all configured the same and it is an attractive feature of Synergy because it makes administration much easier,” says the spokesperson.

Case study

Telecommunications
company

Industry

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Customer at a glance

Hardware

- HPE Synergy 12000 frames
- HPE Synergy 480 Gen9 compute modules
- HPE Synergy Compositers
- Serial Attached SCSI (SAS) drive trays

Software

- HPE OneView

HPE Pointnext services

- HPE Factory Express, implementation, support and training

“HPE Synergy enables us to deliver when our department approaches us with last minute requests.”

– Spokesperson, telecommunications company

“Having a single management portal in one place means that the time taken to maintain the blades in terms of firmware and configurations has gone from hours to minutes. In my experience updating one blade with firmware and configuring the management of each blade used to take 20 or 30 minutes. Now, setting that in the profile and letting it run is just a couple of minutes. Multiply that by the 16 blades that we have and it’s a significant saving in time.”

Adding new VLANs is also quicker because HPE OneView makes them instantly available to all frames rather than the laborious need to add each one individually. “The last time I did this with HPE OneView, setting it up and applying the profiles took less than 10 minutes,” says the spokesperson.

“Before, it would take about 10 minutes to log into each individual blade and update the profile manually. Again, this is a considerable exponential saving.”

The spokesperson concludes: “Saving this amount of time frees our engineers from routine work and gives them the ability to work on other projects. HPE Synergy is a great enabler which allows our engineers to provide a better and faster service for their partner engineering groups within the company. It means we can move fast, provision new resources quickly and be ready for whatever comes along.”

Learn more at
hpe.com/synergy



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