Espria creates composable platform for digital transformation

Healthcare provider embraces software-defined environment with HPE Synergy

Industry
Healthcare

Objective
Maximize efficiency of IT environment, and start journey to software-defined, composable environment

Approach
Planned upgrade of IT environment with long-term supplier, HPE

IT matters
- Reduces demand on in-house IT team, with simplified management
- Delivers vital agility through flexibility of composable infrastructure
- Enables infrastructure to be managed as code, deploying resources quickly and for any workload

Business matters
- Reduces license costs by 50%, allowing funds to be directed into new services like DevOps
- Improves performance by 200%, while cutting servers needed by 50%
- Supports long-term digital transformation strategy to move towards a complete software-defined composable environment

One of the largest healthcare providers in the Netherlands boosts performance by **200%**, at **half the cost**, with **HPE Synergy**

Challenge

Healthcare solutions that are more flexible, personal, and effective

Espria is one of the largest providers of healthcare services in the Netherlands. It operates under seven brands with each delivering a healthcare specialty and all sharing in Espria's shared business services, including IT.

Like healthcare organizations in many developed countries, Espria is undergoing a period of major transformation. It wants to deliver healthcare services closer to its users, taking many non-emergency interactions out of a healthcare environment and into the community. Part of its mission is to strengthen resilience and self-reliance "to support a person's wish of staying fully independent as long as possible."

This requires the business to be more flexible, agile, and personal. Digital transformation is at the heart of this shift. Espria wants patient data to be used more effectively and wants to enable its staff to be mobile in the way they work.

"Digital transformation is our biggest challenge," says Jeroen Ensink, responsible for IT architecture, Espria. "Traditionally, healthcare IT has a conservative mindset—we have many security, regulatory, and legal issues to consider.

But Espria is a demanding organization, both in terms of healthcare ambitions and operational efficiency."

Simplicity and long-term planning

A flexible, efficient composable infrastructure is essential in supporting this transformation. As a non-profit, and with limited budget, Espria's IT strategy favors simplicity, cost efficiency, and long-term planning.

"Costs are a primary consideration," says Ensink. "You can have a wonderful vision, but without the budget to finance it, the vision is nothing."

The organization faced an issue with its blade environment. A long-term user of Hewlett Packard Enterprise solutions, Espria had a silo-driven and traditional data center environment. The IT team was happy with the performance of the HPE BladeSystem c7000 chassis but were looking to future-proof the infrastructure with a solution that could keep pace with business demands. The team was concerned over the resources needed to manage the existing environment. In addition, Espria wanted to rein in escalating license costs.

> "With HPE Synergy we save 50% on our licensing costs. We need half as many processors and we're seeing twice as much performance. Basically, we've doubled performance for half the cost."
>
> – Jeroen Ensink, responsible for IT architecture, Espria

Customer at a glance

Hardware
- HPE Synergy 12000 Frames
- HPE Synergy Gen10 Compute Modules
- HPE Synergy Composer

HPE Pointnext services
- HPE Foundation Care

Software
- HPE OneView

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"We have a team of 100 managing the IT infrastructure for 17,000 employees," explains Ensink. "We have to maximize their effectiveness. We had no issues with the performance or resource utilization with HPE c7000, but the environment had become too complex to manage, and was not helping our costs. Because of the changing policies for VMware®, Microsoft® and Citrix®, and the sheer scale at which we operate, we were very conscious of the number of cores and processors we needed to support these licenses."

Solution

Journey to software-defined, composable infrastructure
In healthcare, Ensink says, stability trumps risk. This means Espria is not often at the cutting edge of IT technology; it tends to favor evolution over revolution.

"The c7000s were beyond reliable. What we saw with the **HPE Synergy Composable Infrastructure** was a natural evolution. There was no risk," says Ensink. "The business case for HPE Synergy was obvious."

Each of Espria's two data centers include HPE Synergy, together with HPE OneView to manage the entire environment. HPE Synergy provides a composable infrastructure private cloud that bridges traditional and cloud applications in the security of your own data center. The powerful, software-defined solution enables Espria to manage its infrastructure as code, deploying IT resources quickly and for any workload.

"We're transitioning to a software-defined infrastructure," says Ensink, "and HPE Composable Infrastructure, delivered through HPE Synergy, presented the best fit of all solutions available."

In addition, **HPE OneView** takes a software-defined, programmatic approach to managing infrastructure with efficient workflow automation, a modern dashboard, and a comprehensive partner ecosystem. It eliminates complex manual processes, spurs IT collaboration, and increases the speed and flexibility of IT service delivery.

The solution was in place within two days, says Ensink, with a further four hours needed to configure the set up: "It was child's play. You just create the profile, configure the settings and forget about it. HPE OneView manages everything."
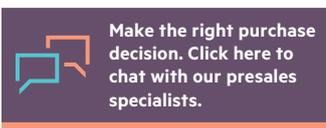
Benefit

Double the performance, half the cost
HPE Synergy delivers immediately against the solution requirements, says Ensink: We save 50% on our licensing costs. We need 50% fewer processors and we're seeing performance improve by 200%. We've doubled performance for half the cost, basically.

"With HPE Synergy Composable Infrastructure though, we're confident we have the architecture for the future. At present HPE Synergy only serves our VMware infrastructure, starting in 2019 we'll transfer our Citrix environment from the HPE c7000s to HPE Synergy."

With less time spent on managing the infrastructure, the focus for the IT team is on value-added services to the business, including steps into DevOps. The business is now better able to support the digital transformation of its seven, patient-facing healthcare specialists. Espria will likely need to respond to these changes in a flexible and agile manner.

"The goal is a complete software-defined environment, and that keeps us busy," Ensink concludes. "Any efficiencies gained on day-to-day operations can be used to support new services."