



Test & Computer Services Ltd

Cost Effective expansion when running Out of Storage

Case Study



Challenge

Customer was running out of storage and had been advised on an expensive SAN upgrade path by their existing vendor. The customer then contacted an alternative vendor only to be quoted for an even more expensive solution. The client had more than 2000 VM's and 120TB of storage which equated to 95% of the available storage. The challenge was to examine the existing data to see if it could be reduced and to plan for the future in the most cost effective way by recommending alternative storage solutions.

Solution

A FAS (File Allocation Service) study was carried out and analysed showing various savings in existing storage amounting to a total of 70.5TB. This consisted of 3TB from dynamic spares, 7TB from VM's that could be deleted, 1TB of archived and other images, 1.5TB on orphaned disks, 18TB of old snapshot data, 30TB from automated scripts by converting from Thick volumes to Thin volumes and 10TB from deleting redundant files. A feasibility study was carried out to review the options to increase the storage capacity if required. Various options were outlined to the client in order for them to decide the best way forward.

Outcome

The customer decided to implement the above changes/deletions in order to free up more storage and then review the forecast in storage requirements for the next few years. As a result of this study the customer is not considering a SAN refresh/upgrade at this stage. The overall savings to the customer so far amount to £420K. The customer is considering carrying out another FAS study when the storage usage gets to 90% of maximum again and will use this information to plan for the long term future.

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25 Years of Experience