

CASE STUDY

PKF Melbourne reduces complexity and builds best quality IT environment with infrastructure upgrade


Hewlett Packard
Enterprise

vmware[®]

Industry: Accounting

Benefits

- Business modernisation
- Better performance and business continuity
- Simplified management

Technology Focus

- vmware vSAN
- HPE ProLiant DL360 Gen10 Plus Server

PKF Melbourne is one of Australia's top 10 business advisory, accounting, and assurance providers. Part of a global family of firms in over 400 cities, PKF Melbourne employs 800 staff across 12 locations. To maintain their high-quality services and better support remote work, the company needed to transform their IT infrastructure.

Challenge

During their refresh cycle, PKF Melbourne saw an opportunity to proactively transform and modernise their IT infrastructure to ensure they were the best in the industry and delivering top quality service to their customers.

The company's existing setup was a 3-tier virtualisation solution consisting of iSCSI-based SAN storage, VMware vSphere based rack servers as hypervisor hosts, and entry level 10GBase-T switches with minimal free ports.



Goals

PKF Melbourne focused their IT modernisation project on 5 core goals:

- **Improve performance:** Improve performance and better support work from home arrangements.
- **Reduce complexity:** Simplify IT management and saves time.
- **Business Optimisation:** Improved day to day employee and customer experience.
- **Time reduction:** Freeing up business resources to work on other projects.
- **Futureproof:** Support future vSphere versions and provide a 5+ year lifespan.

“At PKF Melbourne we are always looking at ways to improve our core infrastructure to ensure we are up to date with our hardware and provide our users with fast reliable systems. We have worked with Metropolitan Computers & Supplies for over 10 years and have always found their service to be outstanding. We feel looked after and have always received the best price from them when comparing to other vendors.”

Solution Overview

To meet PKF Melbourne’s requirements, Metropolitan Computers & Supplies designed and implemented the best quality industry technology including hyperconverged Infrastructure (HCI) solution featuring Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) and VMware solutions. It consists of 2 bespoke all-flash VMware vSAN nodes and HPE ProLiant DL360 Gen10 Plus server components. This solution was developed in collaboration with an HPE solutions architect from distributor Lynx Technologies.

Working closely with the team at PKF Melbourne, we were able to identify the key business needs and technical obstacles that needed to be addressed for the modernised solution to be a success. This key information was used to build a bespoke HPE vSAN solution that worked around PKF Melbourne’s technical limitations while meeting all their requirements for improved business outcomes and innovation.

Results

With their infrastructure upgraded to the latest VMware and HPE technology, PKF Melbourne have seen a significant increase in better performance and peace of mind for the future.

“With the new solution recommended by Metropolitan Computers & Supplies we have been able to provide our users with better performance when working both in the office and at home. The new solution considered our future growth and is capable of supporting our needs for 5 years”

Better Performance and Remote Work Capabilities

The new solution features a direct node-to-node architecture designed so that high-performance storage traffic doesn't move through the existing switching. This means PKF Melbourne didn't need to upgrade their switching while taking some of the load off the network so that performance is optimised.

To ensure business continuity during peak performance times, their infrastructure upgrade provides up to 20TB of storage capacity when required. PKF Melbourne's new setup also better supports additional remote users with an increase in memory. This allows the company to progress their hybrid work plans so they can hire staff from anywhere while also boosting current employee productivity and satisfaction.

“Been able to provide our users with a faster environment has made it easier for our remote users to work from client sites and from their homes. The new solution has allowed us to allocate more resources to our Remote Desktop services providing an improved experience when working away from the office”

Reducing Time and Resources

With the technology upgrade in place, PKF Melbourne have seen a reduction in time and resourcing on day-to-day IT maintenance and management. This spare time allowed PKF Melbourne IT team to focus on other strategic projects aligned to the business.

Metropolitan Computers & Supplies specialists also minimised time and resources by reducing the need for additional training and tools using PKF Melbourne's existing management interface (vCentre) to provision storage and upgrade the hosts. This was completed through HPE's support of the new VMware vLCM capabilities.

Metropolitan Computers & Supplies were also able to reduce PKF Melbourne's carbon footprint by decreasing rack space, power use, and cooling requirements by approximately 2 times. Finally, HPE's technology also provides data deduplication and compression to save additional storage space.

Simplified IT Management

The HPE ProLiant DL360 Gen10 Plus server is delivered as-a-service which has dramatically simplified infrastructure management while futureproofing PKF Melbourne's infrastructure. The solution provides all-flash storage that meets performance requirements while removing the complexity of managing multiple tiers. With centralised management, the new solution has also helped PKF Melbourne to reduce time in deploying new services.

“Maintaining a HPE and VMware environment has provided our business with a more agile IT environment with state-of-the-art hardware eliminating the need to migrate to a new solution, the need of training or downtime.”

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