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- Loyola project lead

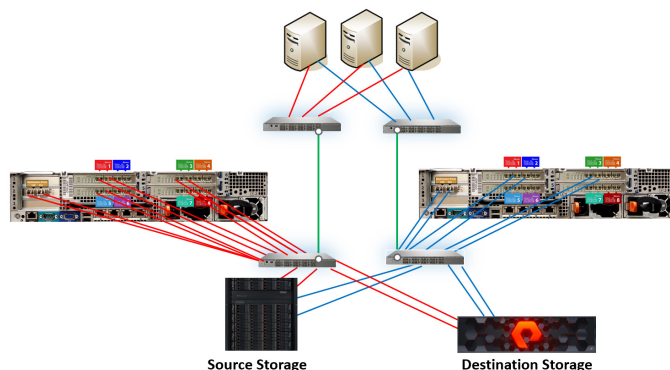


THE CHALLENGE

Loyola University, one of the largest Catholic universities in the United States, includes thirteen colleges and schools serving approximately 17,000 students on numerous US and overseas campuses. When the school needed to replace its aging IBM XIV Storage System arrays in two data center locations, it chose Pure Storage, purchasing Pure's X20 FlashArrays for both sites. When Loyola's internal IT staff asked who could meet their data migration requirements of reliability, minimal downtime, and an easy-to-use migration tool, Pure recommended our Cirrus Migrate On-Premises solution (CMO) to accomplish the project within the university's timeline.

THE SOLUTION

Cirrus Data provided documentation for appliance setup, and although the IT representative at Loyola was initially "overwhelmed" by the installation process with the appliances, CDS support staff conducted multiple calls over video to help get the appliances installed in the university's two data centers. One of the appliances had an issue during initialization, but after a consultation with CDS support, it was determined that one of the fibre channel cards had become slightly dislodged in shipping, and our staff guided the IT representative through the HBA re-seat process which resolved the issue quickly.



Over the course of the migration from the IBM storage to the new Pure Storage, CDS continued to provide assistance where necessary over video calls, and in the end all data was migrated successfully with no data loss. The IT representative at Loyola noted that there were "no complaints from end users or application owners, so I'll take that as positive feedback from our users. Working with Cirrus Migrate On-Premises was a great experience, and I learned a few things along the way. CDS personnel were very informative and assisted us through the entire project." He also noted that they easily met the project deadline, that the migration had been easy, with not a lot - if any - manual intervention necessary to perform the migration, and made particular note of the speed of migrations and cutover.

QUICK FACTS

Customer Type

Private Research University

Source Storage

IBM XIV Storage System

Destination Storage

Pure Storage //X20

Total Data Migrated

Over 35TB

CDS Products Used

Cirrus Migrate On-Premises (CMO)

CHALLENGES

- A non-disruptive deployment for on-premises migration
- Minimum impact on production I/O
- Data must be moved within a four-month timeline

SOLUTION

- CDS works with Loyola IT staff to deploy and insert appliances
- Migration of data off old storage can be conducted during production
- CMO allows cut-over to new storage to be conducted with a very brief downtime window once migration has completed

RESULTS

- Appliances were deployed successfully by Loyola IT staff
- Minor issue with appliance was quickly resolved on-site after consultation with Cirrus Data support team
- Simplicity of Cirrus Migrate On-Premises allowed quick ramp-up time for Loyola IT in creating migration sessions and migrating data
- Users and application owners did not notice that migration and cut-over occurred from old storage to new
- Loyola migration IT lead gave Cirrus Support team and Cirrus Migrate On-Premises high marks for the project

ABOUT CIRRUS DATA

Cirrus Data Solutions Inc. is a leading technology provider of next-generation solutions for data mobility, specializing in block data migration and protection. The company distributes its solutions through systems integrators, managed service providers, channel resellers, and partners including HPE, IBM, Dell Technologies, Microsoft Azure, AWS, Hitachi, NetApp, Pure Storage, Infinidat, AEBs, AHEAD, CDW, SHI, Park Place, Presidio, ePlus, Insight, Computacenter, Sirius, WWT and many others. Cirrus Data Solutions is headquartered in Syosset, New York and has offices located in Dublin, Ireland, and Nanjing with sales and support offices in Boston and Chicago.

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