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-- Partner Project Lead

THE CHALLENGE

A global financial advisory and consulting firm specializing in Chapter 11 reorganizations came to one of Cirrus Data's channel partners with an urgent data migration issue. The company had just contracted for a storage refresh from its Dell Technologies VNX5200 to a new Pure Storage FlashArray//X50 unit that was used to host data for its Windows SQL cluster, but the data center that the company used had very tight site access restrictions. In addition, there was very limited bandwidth available for migration of the 50TB of block data that needed to be moved.

The partner had used Cirrus Data in the past and was familiar with the capabilities and flexibility of our Cirrus Migrate On-Premises solution, but the limitations of the data center in this case eliminated any possibility of deploying appliances for migration purposes. Also, the preparation, migration, and cutover all had to be accomplished within a two month window.

THE SOLUTION

Cirrus Data proposed using its new Cirrus Migrate Cloud for this migration, since it was based on the same patented TDI technology as our traditional physical appliance offering, and required no downtime for migration. In fact, no physical access was even needed for the actual migration, since Cirrus Migrate Cloud is a block-migration-as-a-service solution that only required installation of a thin service on the Windows clients. Once this client service is installed on the hosts with data to be migrated, a direct connection is set up in the background between the two storage arrays and the data is moved with such efficiency that often the application owners aren't even aware that migration is active. Cirrus Data's Intelligent Quality of Service (iQoS)

monitors the migration throughput and throttles back the migration throughput in a surgical manner as the client data load becomes more intense, and then throttles it back up as the source volume host activity decreases. Throughout the company's data migration process, there was no observed impact to business practices relying on the clustered Windows SQL environment.



After the migration had completed, Cirrus Migrate Cloud even facilitated a zero-downtime cutover in the customer's clustered environment using cMotion - a Cirrus Data feature which transparently re-routes host data writes from old storage to new - using the Windows SQL Failover Cluster Manager. All 50TB of data was migrated to the new Pure Storage array and the hosts were cut over to the new storage successfully before the two month deadline passed. The customer noted that "the Cirrus Data CMC product, as well as their PS and Support, were spectacular and on-point throughout the migration project," and also added that "we accomplished all our goals for this project in a very difficult environment due to a restricted site and very limited network bandwidth."

QUICK FACTS

Customer Type

Global Financial Firm

Source Storage

Dell Technologies VNX5200

Destination Storage

Pure Storage //X50

Client Host Types

Microsoft SQL Clusters

Total Data Migrated

Over 50TB

CDS Products Used

Cirrus Migrate Cloud

CHALLENGES

- Extremely limited access to data center site and storage arrays
- Minimum impact on production I/O
- Data must be moved within a two-month timeline
- Limited bandwidth available for migration traffic

SOLUTION

- Cirrus Migrate Cloud (CMC) does not require physical access to data center
- CMC's Intelligent Quality of Service (iQoS) can increase / decrease migration throughput on-the-fly based on production load
- CMC allows migration and cut-over to new storage to be conducted with zero downtime when used with Microsoft SQL Cluster tools

RESULTS

- 50TB of data was migrated from old storage to new with zero downtime
- Entire project was completed within a two-month deadline
- Users and application owners noticed no impact to production during migration or cutover
- Customer and Partner gave Cirrus Support team and Cirrus Migrate Cloud high marks for the project, calling both "spectacular"

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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Cirrus Data USA

6800 Jericho Turnpike Suite 213W
Syosset, NY 11791

EMEA Headquarters

Unit 19, The Exchange - Calmount Park
Calmount Avenue, Dublin D12 F5X0
IRELAND

Website: <https://www.cirrusdata.com>

Email: info@cirrusdata.com