

Case Study



Running faster in a virtual environment

Client: UKA

Industry: Not for Profit

Partner: VMWare and Dell EqualLogic

“ADA’s approach has been refreshing and we now have a resilient infrastructure which will enable us to grow and fine tune our performance over time.”

Nick Holman,
Senior Network Specialist,
UKA

At a glance

● Challenge

With preparations gathering momentum for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games, UKA needed a more resilient yet scalable IT infrastructure. The brief from the UK’s Governing Body for Athletics was simple. The deployed solution had to be capable of accommodating the organisation’s rapidly growing IT requirements. Furthermore, the chosen technology had to have a positive impact on monthly IT expenditure and mitigate risk by providing robust disaster recovery.

● Solution

The server infrastructure at UKA was moved into a VMware virtual environment. Dell EqualLogic iSCSI SANs now provide a consolidated storage platform which enhances local resilience and provides a simple route to disaster recovery.

● Results

- Portable server workloads with no hardware dependency
- Comprehensive disaster recovery capability
- Operational IT expenditure has been significantly reduced
- Capacity can be flexed according to demand without service disruption

Business challenge

Since its inception in 1999, UKA has become the most successful governing body for athletics in the world. With planning underway for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games, UKA’s existing IT infrastructure was struggling to cope with the demands being placed upon it by the organisation’s rapidly expanding team of salaried and voluntary personnel.

The existing fully physical hardware estate carried a significant administrative overhead, backup processes were lengthy and the environment did not offer the agility required by the business. UKA chose ADA Technology Services to find a new solution.



“At UKA, our mission is to achieve excellence in everything we do and we expect nothing less from our suppliers.”

Nick Holman,
Senior Network Specialist,
UKA

ADA solution

The storage and VMWare environment was fully commissioned and physical to Virtual (P2V) migrations carried out for all significant server workloads. A test and development environment was created together with templates which can be used to expedite future server deployment. Finally a second EqualLogic appliance was configured as a replication target, data was synchronised and ongoing replication initiated.

ADA's project management and consultancy teams ensured that the entire project was delivered as agreed, in less than two weeks. Work was completed during working hours with no unscheduled interruption to service.

Results

The results and benefits of the EqualLogic/VMware server partnership were quickly realised throughout UKA:

- Server workloads are now portable, with no specific hardware dependence. Workloads can be seamlessly moved between physical host servers to ensure optimal performance with negligible unplanned downtime
- SAN snapshotting provides online, near instantaneous, application consistent recovery points, on multiple schedules throughout the working week. Since snapshotting takes place within the SAN fabric this has no performance impact on the server estate and ensures productivity is maximised
- The entire environment comprising virtual machines and their data can be simply replicated to a second location for rapid recovery, should the primary site become compromised
- Ongoing costs and administrative overhead have been significantly reduced
- The pool-based approach adopted by both VMware and EqualLogic ensures that additional storage and server resource can be added without downtime or disruption

The Future

With its IT infrastructure performing consistently and reliably, UKA can now focus on the Olympic and Paralympic games in earnest. With a growing and disparate team, UKA are already examining the merits of application delivery technology to enhance their remote access capabilities.

Technical Overview

To find out more about virtualisation and improve disaster recovery planning in your business, visit www.ada.co.uk or email enquiries@ada.co.uk



ADA is one of the UK's leading technology services companies with an enviable reputation for technical excellence, service reliability and industry-leading standards. Working closely with manufacturers and partners who represent the best in the IT industry, ADA sources solutions that offer lasting advantages. Similarly, ADA's consulting and field engineering services are based on an approach that considers your business environment as well as your IT infrastructure, ensuring that your IT delivers real business benefits.



A recognised leader in virtualization technology VMware's solutions are proven to increase the utilisation of existing hardware and reduce both capital and operational costs. By consolidating servers, VMware optimises software development, improves enterprise desktop management and provides affordable business continuity.



Dell EqualLogic iSCSI storage area networks deliver the benefits of consolidated networked storage via one self-managing, affordable and easy to use solution. Fully inclusive licensing ensures users have access to advanced features from the outset and that costs remain predictable throughout the lifecycle of the appliance.