Calor Gas

ATLANTIS

ATLANTIS HEATS UP DESKTOP PERFORMANCE IN BUSINESS-CRITICAL CITRIX ENVIRONMENTS

Offering better than flash performance, the Atlantis HyperScale appliance has transformed the user experience at Calor Gas and has improved costs, reliability and management of the company's two Citrix environments.

For over fifteen years, the UK's leading supplier of Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) has been operating a published desktop with Citrix XenApp. Used by over 900 office-based employees and remote workers, this desktop platform is absolutely critical for core business operations and must therefore deliver both high performance and steadfast reliability.

In addition, Calor Gas wanted to deploy a virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) solution based on Citrix XenDesktop, for around 100 software developers, external contractors and 'power users' who need specialist or resource-intensive applications on a regular basis. However, in its initial project trials, Calor Gas identified significant performance issues in its existing storage area network (SAN). "We needed to increase our storage performance to cope with the bursty traffic that is typical in a VDI environment, but expanding our existing storage wasn't cost effective at all," says Andy Browne, Infrastructure Manager at Calor Gas. "We initially parked the entire VDI project as a result."

COST-EFFECTIVE HYPERCONVERGED STORAGE

A few months later, Calor Gas discovered the Atlantis HyperScale product, which integrates compute and storage into a single appliance, developed, supported and maintained by a single vendor. "The Atlantis HyperScale was significantly more cost effective than other hyper-converged solutions," Browne recalls. "Deploying the Atlantis HyperScale was also 28% less expensive than extending our existing SAN, so we could move ahead with our VDI vision."

CHALLENGES
- Optimize performance with Citrix XenApp
- Remove the cost barriers to deploying a VDI based on Citrix XenDesktop

ATLANTIS PRODUCTS
- Atlantis HyperScale
- Atlantis USX

"The Atlantis HyperScale appliance smooths out the peaks and gives the consistent performance needed in a VDI environment."

Andy Browne
Infrastructure Manager
Calor Gas

35% FASTER APPLICATIONS FOR CITRIX DESKTOP USERS

Calor Gas installed one Atlantis HyperScale appliance to support its existing published desktop environment, boosting application speed for end users across a wide range of applications. "Our wire test timings showed a 35% increase in performance in our Citrix XenApp environment," says Browne.

CONSISTENT PERFORMANCE OF CITRIX XENDESKTOP, EVEN DURING PEAKS

The company then installed a second Atlantis HyperScale appliance for the new virtual desktops, where it works effectively alongside Citrix XenDesktop to support the heavy workloads of powers users. "The Atlantis HyperScale appliance smooths out the peaks and gives the consistent performance needed in a VDI environment," Browne explains. "Having both our Citrix XenApp and our Citrix XenDesktop environments on high performing Atlantis HyperScale storage platforms means we really don't have to worry about the user experience."

SIMPLIFIED MANAGEMENT OF CITRIX ENVIRONMENTS

The Atlantis HyperScale appliances are very simple to maintain and manage, providing a modular and scalable platform for Citrix. As a result, they reduce complexity in Citrix environments and contribute to time-savings in the IT department. Browne estimates that "Ultimately, the combination of Atlantis HyperScale and Citrix XenDesktop removes a couple of weeks of IT management time a year."

MORE ROBUST BUSINESS CONTINUITY SYSTEMS

With advice from product specialists at Atlantis, Calor Gas has designed a fully redundant virtualized storage solution in which the company's two Atlantis HyperScale appliances constantly replicate to the Atlantis USX virtual storage platform at a remote data center. This gives the business a highly effective disaster recovery solution, as well as business continuity for critical systems, like order scheduling and head office applications.

FLEXIBLE SUPPORT FROM ATLANTIS

"We felt confident selecting Atlantis, as we have had previous positive experience of using Atlantis solutions," Browne says. "I have been very impressed with dealing with Atlantis as an organization," he concludes. "The company has been very straightforward, flexible and supportive to work with."

BENEFITS
- Cost competitive compared to alternative storage solutions
- 35% increase in performance of XenApp hosted desktops
- More consistent performance in XenDesktop VDI
- Time savings from simplified IT management
- More robust business continuity
- Reduction in management overhead

VIRTUALIZED IT ENVIRONMENT
- Citrix XenApp – 900 users
- Citrix XenDesktop – 100 users
- Atlantis HyperScale
- Atlantis USX
- Microsoft App-V
- VMware ESXi
- Citrix UPM
- Citrix PVS

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