



Scale Computing for High Availability



BAHAKEL COMMUNICATIONS ADOPTS SCALE FOR ARCHIVING AND HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING

Bahakel Communications is a broadcast company based in Charlotte, North Carolina. Founded in 1953, Bahakel owns 5 television stations and 12 radio stations. Their data center houses 50 servers, a proprietary Fibre Channel SAN for broadcast data, and a Scale 3TB StarterSAN for large Exchange archives.

THE CHALLENGE

Bruce Pina is Bahakel's Corporate IT Manager. Pina's purview is the corporate data center that houses application servers and networked storage systems. Bahakel hosts about 400 mailboxes in their Exchange email system and was experiencing some difficult storage challenges.

Bahakel has a corporate policy of retaining all emails and each mailbox averages around 1GB of storage. Bahakel was storing the Exchange data on a 2TB Dell EMC storage system to house their email archives but they had run out of storage space. At the same time the system came out of warranty and Dell would have charged annual maintenance fees of \$15,000 a year. Bahakel could have expanded the system by an additional 2TB but the maintenance fee would still have applied.

So Pina decided to look for a new storage system that could store not only the email archives, but eventually the broadcast data as well. This meant a storage system that could support a high performance computing (HPC) environment. In addition to this critical requirement, Pina wanted an affordable system with robust scalability and ease in administration.

Pina said, "We can't risk loss or downtime on the broadcast storage system. I needed an HPC system with high availability that could store broadcast data and Exchange archives."

SCALE FOR HPC ENVIRONMENTS

Scale Computing fit all of Bahakel's requirements and more. Pina began with a very affordable 3-node StarterSAN with 3TB of useable capacity. The powerful system includes native mirroring, replication and snapshot features that replace expensive





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RAID requirements. Pina migrated the Exchange archives to the Scale system and plans to add the broadcast data from its existing proprietary Fibre Channel SAN.

Symantec BackupExec does disk-to-disk backup of the Exchange data to the Scale storage system. From the Scale cluster, data is archived to tape for long-term data retention. The Scale system is configured as a NAS but is capable of providing an iSCSI SAN on the same cluster. Its block-based capabilities will enable the Scale system to efficiently store the large broadcast files in the future. Pina also appreciates the ease and low cost of configuring iSCSI as opposed to Fibre Channel.

Each node is fully mirrored and replicates throughout the cluster, which uses advanced multipathing for differing load densities and node failover. Pina plans to add a remote disaster recovery site where he will deploy Scale's native remote replication and snapshot capabilities.

BENEFITS

Bahakel has already realized benefits from their Scale enterprise-class storage. The company's yearly cost of maintaining storage for the email archives had dipped from \$15,000 to less than \$4,000 a year.

"It's been several months since we had to work with Customer Support. When we needed the help they were great. They were very knowledgeable about the equipment and also offered really good tactical advice. But since we've put the system in it's been virtually trouble-free. My environment has a very limited amount of staff, so the less we have to touch the Scale the better I like it."

Its easy scalability is also welcome. Pina could only have scaled his original Dell EMC from 2TB to 4TB but he can grow the Scale system to over 2PB of useable capacity. Pina also reports high speeds on the Scale since throughput and performance scale right along with additional nodes. Scale's active-active configuration means that data does not lag at the storage controller point. Instead each node adds additional throughput speeds, which make for an exceptionally fast and responsive storage system.

Scale Computing has granted Bahakel dramatic cost savings, the convenience of smooth scalability, and enterprise-class storage control.

For more information about Scale Computing, please visit www.scalecomputing.com.



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