HCL America, Inc.

PlateSpin Migration Factory delivers an on-budget and ahead-of-schedule move to hyper-convergence platform with minimum business disruption.

Overview

HCL Technologies helps global enterprises reimagine their businesses for the digital age. Through innovative technology solutions built around digital, Internet of Things, cloud, automation, cybersecurity, analytics, infrastructure management, and engineering services complex business problems are solved.

Challenge

One of HCL's customers, an integrated communications solutions provider of data, e-business and voice services to business and households in Canada, needed to ensure its infrastructure could support the aggressive company growth predicted for the next five years. After consulting with HCL, the customer

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> **POLU SRINIVAS**
> Transition and Transformation Director
> HCL America, Inc.

decided to move their physical legacy infrastructure to a hyper-convergence environment, to achieve cost savings, and increased flexibility. The hyper-convergence model is software-centric and tightly integrates compute, storage, networking and virtualization resources.

HCL needed to perform the migration project with as little business disruption as possible, as explained by Polu Srinivas, Transition and Transformation Director at HCL: "We wanted an 'anywhere to anywhere' migration solution, so that we could support the move to a virtual environment, but also include some physical server targets. We needed to migrate 2,500 servers, across a variety of operating systems and multiple, application-specific, SQL database versions, supporting Cognos, Citrix, and Oracle-based applications. The requirement was an automated solution to help us achieve full results within a timeframe of seven months, as set by the customer, with a minimum of business disruption."

Solution

HCL investigated free migration tools, alongside OpenText™ PlateSpin Migration Factory. PlateSpin Migration Factory is the go-to solution for cloud and data center server migrations, using high-speed block-based transfers and Server Sync technology to deliver the fastest and most efficient migrations. The timeline required and the wide variety of platforms

At a Glance

■ **Industry**
Software and Technology

■ **Location**
New Jersey, USA

■ **Challenge**
When asked to perform a 2,500 server migration from a legacy IT environment to a hyper-convergence environment on behalf of a telecommunications client, HCL knew it needed an automated solution to achieve the minimum amount of business disruption.

■ **Products and Services**
PlateSpin Migration Factory

■ **Success Highlights**
+ Move to a hyper-convergence platform achieved a cost saving of 80 percent for the customer
+ Migration finalized ahead of schedule and within budget
+ Achieved a downtime saving of 60 percent
+ Integrated testing increased confidence during migration project

which needed to be supported were determining factors. Srinivas: "PlateSpin Migration Factory offers broad support for 32- and 64-bit Windows and Linux operating systems. It also has the ability to accelerate server migrations and reduce errors with the highest level of automation available in any migration solution we looked at. That, coupled with the ease of use and Micro Focus (now part of OpenText) support made the decision easy for us."

In a successful partnership, HCL, OpenText™, and the customer worked together to define and execute the migration project. Multiple operating systems such as CentOS, Windows 2003, 2008, and 2012, and multiple versions of RedHat and SUSE needed to be supported. After a first phase of successful server migrations, the customer had gained confidence in HCL and the OpenText™ solution, and requested a migration of Active Directory servers, Exchange servers, Windows clusters, SQL Server-based applications and Oracle databases. These 500+ servers contain business critical applications and the migration had to be finished within a one month timescale, to minimize downtime. HCL, with support from OpenText™, managed the migration in 12 days which was a great result for the customer.

Testing was a major part of the project, and PlateSpin Migration Factory's integrated testing capabilities were valuable here, as Srinivas comments: "During the initial migration phases the customer conducted application testing. We then integrated testing right into the process with PlateSpin Migration Factory's Server Sync capability. With Server Sync, after an initial full server replication, the target server is kept in sync with the source server via automatically scheduled incremental replications.

Live transfer allowed us to run migrations in the background without shutting down source servers. The testing ability of the target server after each sync has helped us minimize downtime for final cut-over to ensure data is up-to-date, which was so important for this particular customer."

Results

PlateSpin Migration Factory's ability to manage a large number of server migrations, coupled with an assigned specialist OpenText engineer to support the end-to-end migration project, helped HCL meet the timelines of the project set by its customer.

In fact, it exceeded them, as Srinivas explains: "We finished our migration a month ahead of schedule and within budget. Our customer loved the solution provided by HCL and the new infrastructure has given them a cost saving of approximately 80 percent in terms of power, space and hardware. By deploying PlateSpin Migration Factory we have realized a downtime saving of approximately 60 percent during the migration, and we estimate an alternative automated migration solution would have cost us 30 percent more."

He concludes: "Working together with Micro Focus (now part of OpenText) on this highly complex and large-scale server migration project has given us the confidence to propose this methodology for other customers, safe in the knowledge that we, and our customers, are in good hands with Micro Focus (now part of OpenText)."

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