

Service Provider Delivers Managed Hosting Service with 100 Percent Uptime

StrataScale, Inc. uses Cisco Nexus 7000 to deliver a truly automated managed server hosting solution.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

StrataScale

- Service Provider
- California

Challenge

- Network infrastructure capable of supporting 100 percent uptime service-level agreement (SLA)
- Density and performance characteristics for cost-effective solution

Solution

- Cisco Nexus 7000 provides network services to underpin IronScaleSM automated managed hosting service

Results

- Switch availability meets SLA requirements
- System density and performance characteristics helped ensure efficient deployment of infrastructure to support service

Challenge

StrataScale, Inc., is a wholly owned subsidiary of RagingWire Enterprise Solutions, Inc. RagingWire provides managed service solutions and premium IT infrastructure for data-intensive enterprise companies.

StrataScale, Inc recently launched IronScaleSM, a fully automated managed hosting service that allows customers to provision and repurpose resources such as dedicated servers, network services, and storage on-demand in real-time. IronScale delivers dynamic, flexible, scalable resources allowing customers to build their businesses on dedicated enterprise-class infrastructure.

Beyond the ability to implement a network architecture that supports the service objectives of IronScale,

StrataScale also needed to develop a cost-effective model to meet the business objectives of the service offering.

Solution

For the network infrastructure that underpins IronScale, StrataScale chose the Cisco[®] Nexus 7000 for a number of reasons. Because system **availability** is critical to service providers, and IronScale features a 100 percent uptime service-level agreement (SLA), the high-availability characteristics of the Cisco Nexus 7000 are especially valuable. The switch's Zero Service Loss Architecture helps ensure that both StrataScale and StrataScale customers are protected from the impact of network downtime. Beyond system availability, the Cisco Nexus 7000 architecture helps ensure critical traffic can be handled with a much higher degree of **reliability**.

Optimized for 10 Gb Ethernet, the Cisco Nexus 7000 also provides the **performance** that is needed to support IronScale's clients' bandwidth-intensive applications. Of particular value to StrataScale is the fact that the Cisco Nexus 7000 provides the company with forward investment protection. Although the switch is optimized to 10 Gb Ethernet today, the switch architecture is also designed for scalability to support future standards such as 40 Gb or 100 Gb Ethernet without compromise.

Finally, the Cisco Nexus 7000 provides the **density** that StrataScale was looking for, and helps StrataScale maximize its investment. The density offered by the Cisco Nexus 7000 simplifies infrastructure that then offers additional benefits by reducing hardware costs and operational costs such as power and cooling.

"We chose the Cisco Nexus 7000 to anchor the network core for our IronScale automated managed hosting solution. With requirements to support bandwidth-intensive applications across a multi-10Gig network core, we found the Cisco Nexus 7000 would meet client demands and provide scalability for the future. The Cisco Nexus 7000 delivers unparalleled 10Gig port density, reliability, and performance that enables our IronScale environment to stay on the cutting edge."

— Denoid Tucker, Sr. Director of Engineering, StrataScale, Inc.

Results

Testing, validation, and implementation have shown that the Cisco Nexus 7000 is fully capable of supporting the IronScale 100 percent uptime SLA. The Cisco Nexus 7000 has also met the performance and density expectations of StrataScale.

One of the underlying principles of the Cisco Nexus family is increased manageability. As part the fully integrated, fully automated enterprise-class IronScale server environment, StrataScale was able to initially stage the core switches in only a couple of days and was able to quickly complete testing and validation in about two weeks because of the manageability features of the switch.

Next Steps

Now that the Cisco Nexus 7000 has proven that it can easily meet the operational requirements of IronScale, StrataScale is exploring how it can take advantage of the switch to further increase service density, simplify the network infrastructure, and take advantage of advanced features to offer new services.

For More Information

<http://www.cisco.com/go/nexus>

<http://www.ironscale.com>



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Cisco Systems, Inc.
San Jose, CA

Asia Pacific Headquarters
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