

FlexPod running SAP HANA helps TasNetworks deliver unparalleled performance

TasNetworks uses FlexPod to integrate diverse systems and create a single source of truth.



Australian electricity transmission and distribution company TasNetworks, needed to transition diverse applications into a single platform, following the merger of two electricity supply organisations in 2014.

The choice of FlexPod from Cisco and NetApp, running SAP HANA with Commvault data protection software, created significant business improvements and efficiencies that have resulted in better services for their customers.



A powerful solution from:

75% reduction in data centre footprint



Sub 1ms latency



“FlexPod has transformed our performance and efficiency, so we can focus on applications and end-user services.”

Liam Cole, team leader, IT Commercial Operations, TasNetworks

To build an efficient business, TasNetworks needed a single platform with a single application for each business function, and a single source for all data. They achieved this integration by implementing SAP applications on FlexPod with NetApp MetroCluster and Commvault for backup and recovery.

Challenge

When the Tasmanian government created TasNetworks in 2014, it merged two separate electricity supply networks. This merger presented the challenge of integrating numerous legacy platforms from each company, including payroll, HR and operational technology.

“We saw huge benefit in consolidating these diverse applications into one platform that would give everyone a single way of working,” says Michael Westenberg, general manager, Technology and Performance, TasNetworks. To assess the magnitude of the task and investigate the best solution, TasNetworks created a program they called Ajilis. The Ajilis team engaged Cisco from a networking and server perspective, and NetApp from a storage perspective. They also decided to standardise on SAP modules across the business with FlexPods across two sites using MetroCluster.

Solution

To create the powerful platform they needed, TasNetworks selected FlexPod from NetApp and Cisco, which includes NetApp All Flash storage arrays, Cisco networking and the Cisco Unified Computing

System in a single deployment. They integrated this using Commvault Complete™ Backup and Recovery.

By setting up a 100% virtualised environment, TasNetworks can scale services by augmenting the appropriate compute, storage or network capacity within a single pod. “The integration capability through the VM stack and the FlexPod stack and back into Commvault is second to none,” says Liam Cole, team leader, IT Commercial Operations, TasNetworks. “It’s made it really easy to deploy hosts and do maintenance. And it’s been exceptional for availability. FlexPod has transformed our performance and efficiency, so we can focus on end-user services.”

Today, TasNetworks runs a range of SAP modules, including Governance, Risk and Compliance, Enterprise Asset Management, Finance, Payroll and Project Management. TasNetworks can also access real-time data analytics to enhance safety, reduce response times and lower costs, and they are looking to deploy artificial intelligence solutions in future.

One source of truth

FlexPod has given TasNetworks a seamless, integrated platform with employee self-service. “Now, everyone in the business is using SAP and there is one source of truth,” says Westenberg. “We can trust our data, because it is coming through one platform in real time.”

Passing on the savings

Through consistent processes and ways of working, TasNetworks has improved service delivery. “NetApp storage efficiencies have enabled us to realise performance and availability improvements, while delivering a 75% reduction in data centre footprint,” says Westenberg.

A trusted platform for growth

With FlexPod powered by Cisco and NetApp including tight integration with Commvault, TasNetworks is able to non disruptively deploy, shift and swap infrastructure and upgrade the network fabric. Every piece of maintenance work is completed online, all without downtime to the SAP application environment. TasNetworks can confidently run mission-critical services with platinum-level SLAs and model future requirements via a unified picture of their data and infrastructure.

Future proofed

TasNetworks has calculated that the process improvements will continue to deliver cost savings for the next ten years. “We are taking advantage of things like aggregate level deduplication to get further value,” says Tristan Roberts, team leader, Infrastructure, TasNetworks.

Interviewees

Michael Westenberg, general manager, Technology and Performance

Liam Cole, team leader, IT Commercial Operations

Tristan Roberts, team leader, Infrastructure

www.tasnetworks.com.au

Solution Components

Cisco

Cisco Nexus switches and Fabric Interconnects

Cisco Unified Computing System (UCS)

Cisco UCS Manager

Cisco Application Centric Infrastructure (ACI)

Cisco UCS Director

NetApp

NetApp ONTAP

NetApp All Flash FAS (AFF)

NetApp FAS SnapVault Target

NetApp AFF using FabricPool data tiering

StorageGRID Webscale (Object Store)

NetApp OnCommand Insight

NetApp MetroCluster

Commvault

Commvault IntelliSnap

Commvault Complete™ Backup and Recovery

Core SAP & associated software

SAP Suite on HANA & Business Warehouse on HANA

SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for SAP

VMware vSphere

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