CITY OF LONDON CASE STUDY

FAST FACTS

The London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) is the archive repository for a variety of London-wide organisations, including the City of London Corporation (COL) and the former Greater London Council (GLC), with enough documents to fill around 78km of shelving. It needed a resilient and scalable storage solution that would suit its growing requirements.

The City of London selected Scale Computing's Storage powered by Intelligent Clustered Operating System™ to deliver greater efficiency and much needed flexibility at an affordable price. It was fitted and ready to use within an hour, and the data migration occurred the following week. Scale Computing delivered an initial 6 terabytes (TB) of usable capacity which had the ability to grow steadily in 1TB increments up to 2.2 petabytes (PB) with features including:

- Entry-level 3TB Starter SAN: (3) S-series with 3TB of usable capacity
- Unlimited software license
- Full mirror / stripe data protection
- Auto load balancing
- SAN/NAS storage node
- iSCSI, NFS, CIFS
- Snapshots and replication
- SATA drives

"We looked at several providers of storage solutions, but none came close to the level of scalability and affordability that Scale could offer us", said Frank Purcell, Team Leader, IS Division, City of London. "We have already seen significant cost savings with Scale's intelligent solution. I feel confident that the LMA will be able to manage the growth of its archives in an affordable way, particularly with unpredictable demands in the future for the storage of digitalised video images."

Case Study

The City of London provides local government services for the financial and commercial heart of Britain, the 'Square Mile'. It is committed to supporting and promoting 'The City' as the world leader in international finance and business services through the policies it pursues and the high standard of services it provides. Its responsibilities extend far beyond the City boundaries as it provides a host of additional facilities for the benefit of the UK. These range from open spaces such as Epping Forest and Hampstead Heath to the famous Barbican Arts Centre and the London Metropolitan Archives.

London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) is the archive repository for a number of London-wide organisations. The archives of the City of London Corporation (COL) and the former Greater London Council (GLC), London County Council (LCC), Middlesex County Council (MCC) and their predecessors are held here. LMA also holds records for many religious, public, business, local authority and other organisations based in London. The dates of items that can be found here range from medieval to the present day, and its collections are constantly expanding. At present, there are documents to fill around 78 km of shelving.

Challenge

The City of London required a resilient and scalable storage solution that would support the growing requirements of the LMA.

"With a vast collection of documents and photographs that continues to expand on a daily basis, we needed a flexible and scalable storage solution that would grow steadily with our needs in the most cost effective way. We needed to ensure that we could cope with our growing archive of digitalised images and videos which will over time demand more capacity," said Frank Purcell, Team Leader, IS division, City of London.

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Challenge - Continued

Through its reseller partner Kisdata, the City of London selected Scale Computing, developer and manufacturer of storage powered by Scale's own Intelligent Clustered Operating System™ (ICOS) technology. Purcell continued,

"*We were attracted by Scale's flexible storage portfolio which offers secure, easy-to-manage and affordable intelligent storage solutions – it delivers a high performance level which met both the specific needs of the LMA and the available budget.*"

As opposed to scale-up storage, Scale's storage solutions are scale-out – the third generation of storage - which enables organisations to buy storage as they need it, and add capacity as they grow. Purcell commented,

"*We looked at several providers of storage solutions, but none came close to the level of scalability and affordability that Scale could offer us.*"

Solution

The City of London evaluated Scale Computing's Intelligent Clustered Operating System™ solution and Kisdata, the information management solutions company, together with Scale Computing, implemented the ICOS Solution. The solution was fitted and ready to use within an hour, and the data migration occurred the following week. Scale's intelligent storage solution has delivered an initial 6 terabyte (TB) of usable capacity which can grow steadily in 1TB increments up to 2.2PB. Purcell said,

"*The Scale solution allows us to continue delivering a high level of service to the LMA. Its enterprise class features together with its manageable scalability and affordable price have been particularly appealing. The ICOS solution meets both the current archiving requirements and potential future demands of video clips – giving us peace of mind and long term cost savings.*"

The Scale solution promised to decrease costs, increase control and make storage management more convenient for their IT administrators.

Features

- Entry-level 3TB Starter SAN: (3) S-series with 3TB of usable capacity
- Unlimited software license
- Full mirror / stripe data protection
- Auto load balancing
- SAN/NAS storage node
- iSCSI, NFS, CIFS
- Snapshots and replication
- SATA drives

Benefits

Scale Computing's storage solution powered by ICOS provides the ability to scale incrementally and allows the City of London to carefully manage costs as its archive continuously grows.

"*We have already seen significant cost savings with Scale's intelligent solution. I feel confident that the LMA will be able to manage the growth of its archives in an affordable way, particularly with unpredictable demands in the future for the storage of digitalised video images,*" said Purcell.

The Scale ICOS Solution is easy to use and unified with multi-protocol functionalities combining file and block-level services into one device to save power and management costs. It is scalable 1TB at a time and can be purchased as required to grow storage capacity and performance.