



Transforming Beaconhills College's storage environment

HPE Nimble Storage delivers reliable, fast and scalable storage at an affordable price

Objective

Beaconhills College wanted to replace its ageing storage system with a new platform that would be easier to manage.

Approach

The college worked with local IT partner Computers Now to deploy two HPE Nimble Storage arrays with HPE InfoSight management software.

IT matters

- HPE InfoSight uses predictive AI to prevent issues before they impact the system
- HPE Nimble Storage can be easily and affordably scaled up to meet business needs
- Native Veeam integration makes disaster recovery and backup simple

Business matters

- Improved application performance boosts user productivity
- 20% reduction in energy consumption lowers costs
- Intuitive management reduces the strain on IT resources



Beaconhills College has deployed two HPE Nimble Storage arrays with predictive analytics from HPE InfoSight to support a range of core business and educational functions for over 4,000 users. It provides a reliable, high-performing storage platform that is simple to manage, scales easily and consumes less energy than the previous solution.

Challenge

Boosting storage capacity

Established in 1982 in Melbourne, Australia, Beaconhills College is an independent, co-educational Christian school with two campuses. It offers a holistic education that inspires excellence and nurtures confident, independent learners while ensuring students build the values that empower them to be responsible, caring citizens. Around 3,500 students are supported by 600 faculty and administrative staff.

The college's storage platform consisting of two arrays, had been in place for five years, was reaching capacity and was draining resources from a management perspective. The school wanted to refresh this storage environment with an affordable solution that would be easier to manage.

'Our storage solution has to provide space for not just 4,000-plus students and teachers but also our community of parents so the existing 70 TB would soon not be able to cope adequately,' explains



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Callum Bowmaker, Network and Systems Manager, Beaconhills College. ‘Moreover, the management was not intuitive in a school environment and, without a dedicated storage technician, it was becoming challenging to maintain.’

Beaconhills College turned to its IT partner of five years, Computers Now, for advice. It recommended taking a fresh look at HPE Nimble Storage, which offers a robust storage solution with advanced management capabilities, wrapped in HPE’s world-class service and support.

‘We had evaluated Nimble five years ago when it was a young start-up and there were concerns then as to whether the support available would meet enterprise standards; however, the acquisition by HPE answered those concerns,’ adds Bowmaker. ‘We have been using HPE ProLiant servers for over ten years and rarely had any issues so that gave us the confidence that this would be the best storage platform for us.’

This confidence was further bolstered by the inclusion of HPE InfoSight, a predictive analytics platform that uses software-defined artificial intelligence (AI) to eliminate the pain of infrastructure management.

Solution

At the heart of college life

Beaconhills College and Computers Now deployed two HPE Nimble Storage arrays, totalling 122 TB capacity, which together deliver industry-leading effective capacity efficiency as well as a future-proofed architecture and 99.9999% guaranteed availability.

‘HPE racked and stacked the hardware, and Computer Now led the migration,’ says Bowmaker. ‘We then ran the old and new storage systems in parallel for three months while we migrated 43 VMware® virtual machines. It was a simple and seamless process that didn’t disrupt the college’s operations in the slightest.’

HPE Nimble Storage arrays support standard office productivity tools as well as the college’s ERP application, web servers, HR, payroll, CCTV security and SQL databases. Because the majority of the curriculum is delivered via the college website, it is a vital part of academic life and student success. HPE Nimble Storage also boasts native integration with Veeam, which provides disaster recovery.





Customer at a glance

Hardware

- HPE Nimble Storage arrays

Software

- HPE InfoSight

‘All the subjects are hosted and run here, as are the core business functions, so availability and performance are key,’ continues Bowmaker. ‘Nimble delivers on both counts.’

Benefit

Speed, stability, scalability

Users no longer experience lag or slowdowns when accessing applications, making them more productive and less frustrated. At the same time, the HPE Nimble Storage arrays have had no downtime since installation – courtesy of HPE InfoSight, which uses predictive AI to prevent issues before they impact the system.

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‘HPE InfoSight gives us a comprehensive overview of how the storage is performing from any device, which makes it easy for me working across multiple campuses and from home. Basically, it solves problems before I even know about them,’ comments Bowmaker. ‘And the system is inherently scalable; usage at the moment is around 50%, but if we need to build it out, we can add discs easily and cost-effectively.’

In a server room where space is at a premium, the new HPE storage solution takes up a third of the room as the previous platform while also reducing energy consumption by 20%. However, perhaps the most important advantage it provides Beaconhills College is its ease of use.

‘It is simple to configure and manage so I don’t have to spend time babysitting the hardware or firefighting problems,’ concludes Bowmaker. ‘And if there were any issues, we have had support from HPE for our servers for many years and it has always been excellent. This HPE Nimble Storage solution gives us a reliable, high-performing platform for future growth.’

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a50000158EEW, August 2019

