

**Objective**

Complexity of managing storage across multiple manufacturing sites, hindered the global electronics manufacturer's inability to scale storage program

Approach

Completed an evaluate and select process that involved comparing storage products from multiple vendors

IT Matters

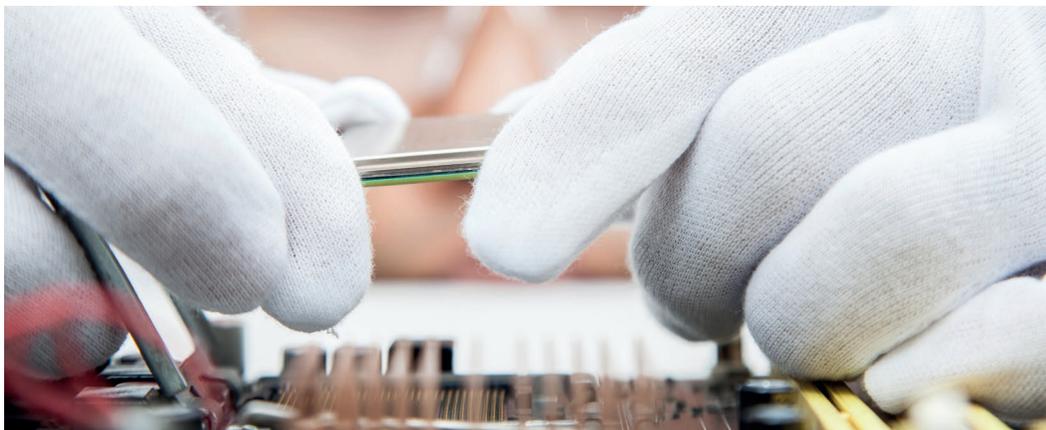
- Around-the-clock infrastructure monitoring with Nimble Storage InfoSight
- Granular visibility into individual server activity

Business Matters

- Improved performance of critical applications for remote manufacturing
- Modernized data centers and disaster recovery strategy

Simplifying Operations with Nimble Storage

Predictive Cloud Platform and InfoSight Optimize Performance



Challenge

History of electronics manufacturing excellence

Kimball Electronics is a global electronics manufacturer whose solutions impact many products people use every day—from infotainment systems and safety devices in cars, to MRI technology used by medical professionals, to surveillance equipment relied on by security experts. With over 5,000 employees, the Indiana-based company employs a highly-sophisticated manufacturing model that spans nine locations across Europe, Asia and North America.

Due to the complexities of remote manufacturing, the Shared Services IT team depends on critical applications to ensure smooth-running operations. A single instance of SAP® is accessed by all locations across several time zones to effectively perform manufacturing processes and provide a consistent interface to customers, regardless of where a product is made.

SQL is another critical application used to ensure traceability—large volumes of data and images of every product that goes down the production line at every location, in order to maintain the highest-quality manufacturing standards.

Solution

Adding simplicity and flexibility to infrastructure Management

In 2014, Kimball Electronics spun off as a separate, publicly traded company (NASDAQ: KE) from Kimball International, presenting the perfect opportunity for IT to upgrade its storage platform and bolster the infrastructure that underpins its global operations. After completing an evaluate and select process that involved comparing storage products from multiple vendors, the Nimble Predictive Cloud platform was chosen as the ideal solution.

Customer at a glance

HPE Solution

Nimble Storage All Flash Cloud Platform
Nimble Storage InfoSight

“Since upgrading to the Nimble Storage All Flash Cloud platform, application performance is vastly improved and the IT team always knows exactly what’s happening across the environment. Ninety-seven percent of our systems run on Nimble, making it a critical part of Al-Pac’s IT strategy moving forward. For more than fifty years, Kimball Electronics has been providing high-quality electronics solutions for a wide range of innovative products. Nimble Storage is the perfect fit for our business, simplifying IT management and delivering a flexible framework as we continue to evolve our global operations.”

– Joey Clark, director of computing infrastructure, Kimball Electronics

“After using older storage technology for many years, we wanted to upgrade to a solution that was physically smaller, easier to manage and could scale as our needs changed,” says Joey Clark, director of computing infrastructure at Kimball Electronics. “We immediately fell in love with the simplicity and flexibility of Nimble Storage.” Nimble Storage’s ability to support a SAP HANA® migration also in process was an added bonus. Today, the company uses eight Nimble Storage Adaptive Flash arrays that support locations across the US, China, Poland, and Thailand.

Benefit

Automatic detect and repair capabilities with InfoSight

Soon after implementation, the predictive analytics capabilities of InfoSight identified and repaired a failed drive in China. The team was impressed with how it could automatically detect and resolve the root cause of many issues, with minimal assistance and at no additional cost.

IT enjoys its easy-to-use interface and regularly uses InfoSight VMVision to gain a server-centric view of real-time activity across the entire infrastructure.

Modernizing data backup and disaster recovery

In 2016, the IT team designed a new disaster recovery strategy, utilizing two data centers in Cincinnati, Ohio, that leverage a combination of Cisco UCS servers and the Nimble Predictive Cloud platform to replicate global applications. Technicians also frequently use Nimble Storage’s snapshot capabilities to quickly test and troubleshoot their work, with the assurance that they can easily revert back to original configurations as needed.

“The performance gains we are seeing across the two remote data centers is remarkable,” says Clark. “Using Nimble Storage, our infrastructure runs better today than when it was housed 20 feet away from our technicians!”

Learn more at
hpe.com/storage/nimble



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