



Profiles in Customer Success

Maxta Prescribes

Hyperconvergence with Superior Support for Big Pharma Research Specialist

Princeton Pharmatech LLC is a specialized contract research organization (CRO) providing clinical biostatistics and SAS programming services to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, medical device companies and research institutes.

Renowned for its ability to provide solutions to complex issues with high standards of precision, Princeton Pharmatech is committed to ensuring its clients' projects are conducted accurately, efficiently and promptly.

Founded in 2008, and headquartered in Princeton, New Jersey, all of Princeton Pharmatech's biostatisticians and SAS programmers have extensive experience in pharmaceutical development and regulatory submission to ensure that its team works to the same high standards as its clients' staffs.

Princeton Pharmatech has provided clinical trial services in a variety of therapeutic areas leading to Investigational New Drug (IND) and New Drug Application (NDA) submissions in the U.S., Europe and Japan.



The Challenge: Resolve server and storage performance issues hampering Princeton Pharmatech's commitment to excellence in delivering research support to clients

Princeton Pharmatech had deployed leading-brand servers and storage arrays connected via a Fibre Channel SAN. After adding VMware on some of its servers, the company began to experience slow storage performance and network issues that hindered its commitment to excellence.

When it came time to perform a hardware refresh, company partner and infrastructure architect Liviu Elama wanted to explore the company's options beyond the existing servers and SAN. After considering and rejecting various alternatives, he heard about hyperconverged appliances and began a deeper investigation.

"What we were really looking for was something we could develop around SAS programming for our pharmaceutical studies," said Elama. "SAS is very strange from a performance perspective. It has very aggressive I/O requirements."



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After proprietary hyperconverged appliances proved to be too expensive for the size of the organization, Elama discovered Maxta, which had been recognized by a leading industry research firm for providing innovative capabilities via a software-centric hyperconvergence architecture. Through conversations with Maxta and a demonstration, he decided to use Maxta MxSP® software to create a hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI) for Princeton Pharmatech.

The Solution: Implement MxSP software to deliver hyperconvergence at significantly less cost than proprietary HCI appliances

Deploying MxSP software as part of a full infrastructure refresh, Princeton Pharmatech has realized significant benefits.

The flexibility of the Maxta server-agnostic approach allowed the company to switch to the server vendor of its choice, replacing its previous equipment with Supermicro offerings.

The new Maxta-enabled HCI cluster consists of three 1U Supermicro servers, each equipped with an Intel 800GB SSD, three one-terabyte HDDs, and two 10GbE network interfaces, all interconnected via redundant Cisco 10GbE managed switches.

Compared to their previous infrastructure, performance of the HCI cluster has increased tenfold for reads and 3x for writes, delivering enough performance to support their SAS environment with room for growth.

In addition, the Maxta-based hyperconverged infrastructure supports other core functions including Windows and Java-based applications as well as the company's website.

The capacity optimization capabilities of the MxSP software have also enabled Princeton Pharmatech to dramatically reduce the amount of data stored, which consumes 40% - 50% less space than previously needed.

"Maxta works really well for us," said Elama. "They have helped us get rid of the storage and complexity issues we were facing. In fact, the simplicity was one thing that I wasn't expecting. It just works. You forget that you have storage to maintain. It's just there and it works."

The Result: Maxta delivers excellence in support to complement leading performance, simplicity and flexibility

As well as the Maxta solution has performed for Princeton Pharmatech, Elama says that he is even more impressed with the level of Maxta support, which has helped him overcome issues often found in transitioning to a new server and storage infrastructure, such as a broken VM environment that was quickly resolved.

"If I had to pick one thing about Maxta that stands out the most, it would have to be their support first, then their product. I don't think I've ever seen a vendor doing such a good job. My experience with their sales, support, everything, has been



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extremely wonderful. I didn't expect them to be that good."

About MxSP Software

Maxta MxSP software helps organizations of any size transform complex and costly virtualized infrastructure into a more agile, efficient configuration by converging traditionally separate compute and storage tiers. The result is dramatically simpler management and significant cost savings by eliminating the need for expensive and complicated storage area networks and storage arrays.

Maxta software-centric HCI solutions offer unparalleled freedom of choice in servers, storage and virtualization platforms, eliminating expensive vendor lock-in and creating much greater flexibility than proprietary HCI appliances. MxSP-enabled clusters support any standard x86-based server configuration. Clusters may be scaled up or scaled out in increments as small as a single storage device or server at a time.

Compute-only nodes may also be added to scale computing power independently of storage capacity, eliminating the typical over-provisioning of resources when scaling proprietary appliances.

Maxta hyperconvergence solutions offer an ideal blend of single pane of glass management, seamless scalability and enterprise-class data services for most virtual environments, including public, private and hybrid cloud deployments.

About Maxta

Maxta is redefining enterprise IT infrastructure through a groundbreaking approach to hyperconvergence that dramatically simplifies operations while delivering much greater agility and cost savings.

Our award-winning MxSP software and MaxDeploy® appliances offer unparalleled freedom of choice in servers, storage devices and server virtualization platforms, while eliminating the need for complex and costly storage arrays.

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Liviu Elama, Princeton Pharmatech LLC
