SciQuest

Staying ahead of the competition by offering highly responsive solutions, based on IBM flash storage

Overview

The need
As user numbers grew for its cloud solutions, SciQuest needed to ensure optimal performance and availability—yet faced constraints around cost, energy consumption and rackspace in the data center.

The solution
Improved data I/O performance and storage scalability by replacing a full rack of standard spinning disks with an IBM® FlashSystem™ array that occupies just 3U of rackspace.

The benefit
Doubles storage I/O performance, eliminating peak-time process bottle-necks in key applications; reduces energy consumption while increasing storage capacity; 14-fold reduction in physical rackspace.

Based in Cary, NC, SciQuest, Inc. provides cloud-based software-as-a-service (SaaS) solutions for the full business automation process for corporate spend management solutions. The company's software enables its clients to automate processes and improve control and visibility across spend analysis, supplier management, sourcing, procurement, contract management functions and more.

Getting ahead of performance issues
When a routine monitoring exercise at SciQuest flagged potential perfor-mance issues in its main procurement application, the company realized that its existing infrastructure would not be able to scale to meet future demand. Already, there were peak periods during which the amount of data I/O required from the database was exceeding the capabilities of the existing disk storage system.

Implementing IBM FlashSystem has allowed SciQuest to focus on more valuable and important tasks for customers. Bill Kirchhoff explains, "With IBM FlashSystem we can look at other things that directly impact our customers—we're able to focus on bringing new customers in. And for our salespeople, it's a wonderful thing to show the performance, and know that new customers will get the same performance."

Solution built on excellence

After looking at the marketplace for enterprise flash storage, SciQuest chose to deploy an IBM FlashSystem array for its IBM DB2® database landscape.

In deploying the IBM FlashSystem array, SciQuest replaced an entire 36U rack of spinning disks with just 3U of flash storage, making major savings also in energy consumption. By eliminating its I/O bottlenecks, the company was also able to redirect resources from fixing the performance issues to working on new projects.

Moving to microsecond latency

Deploying the IBM FlashSystem array had an immediate positive impact on SciQuest's service offerings.

Bill Kirchhoff, Production Infrastructure Manager at SciQuest, notes, "When we rolled out IBM FlashSystem on the first day, customers experienced a doubling of performance, with response times going from an average of 300 milliseconds to less than 150. The return on investment for the corporation was that we did not have to spend money on tuning code or SQL, or actually implementing more on the hardware side, except for storage."

Solution components

Hardware
- IBM® FlashSystem™
- IBM System x®
- IBM Storwize® V7000

Software
- IBM DB2®

For more information

To learn more about IBM FlashSystem solutions, contact your IBM sales representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit us at: **ibm.com**/systems/storage/flash/

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