

University of Georgia Center and Hotel chooses Infinio for storage performance

Accelerates all-flash array, achieving microsecond response times

The University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education and Hotel is a conference center located in Athens, GA. With 200 hotel rooms and over 35,000 square feet of conference space, the UGA Center is an active resource used by the entire University community.

The IT team comprises just four systems administrators to support over 300 employees, 200 of whom use virtual desktops. There are two vSphere clusters running at the UGA Center, one running server workloads and the other for VDI. A Dell Compellent all-flash array hosts the virtual machines, and each host has a single SSD used for caching.

The UGA Center had been using a different server-side cache whose market stability was in question, so the team set out to find a replacement. Andy Stowe, systems administrator at UGA, says, "We talked to some other divisions here at the University. One was using a solution and said that when they turned it off, 'people went crazy,'" so we decided give that a try. It was Infinio."

Stowe set up a pilot for Infinio on their server cluster. This cluster had over 50 VMs and included file and print services, digital signage applications, and back office applications like SQL and QuickBooks. Immediately they saw good results. "File access and read times were definitely improved. We use those file servers for our VDI machines, so it's always good to see a speed increase there. Response times were fast – as low as 170 microseconds – which is even faster than our all-flash array!"

The UGA Center decided to deploy into production, and haven't looked back. Says Stowe, "A different division of UGA is using a competitor to Infinio, so we took a look at that too. But we like the Infinio dashboard better, and more importantly, we're seeing better performance." In the near future, the UGA Center is looking to deploy VSAN, and anticipates including Infinio into that architecture to see top performance. They are also planning to add Infinio to their VDI cluster to improve user experience.

Overall, Infinio meets all their requirements. "We like not having to install all the VIB drivers or plug-ins," says Stowe, "we really like the interface – it's more user friendly and easier to use – and the speeds can't be beat."



BENEFITS

- Exceed all-flash array performance by delivering 170 microsecond response time
- Improve file access time for virtual desktop users
- Accelerate back office apps like SQL and QuickBooks

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ANDY STOWE
SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR