Great Ormond Street Hospital Increases Storage Efficiency And Business Continuity with NetApp MetroCluster Solution

**CUSTOMER PROFILE**

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust is the country’s leading centre for treating sick children, with the widest range of specialists under one roof. With the UCL Institute of Child Health, it is the largest centre for paediatric research outside the US and plays a key role in training children’s health specialists for the future. Established in 1852 as the Hospital for Sick Children, it had only 10 beds and was the first hospital in the UK dedicated to children. With a mission to provide world-class clinical care and training, while pioneering new research and treatments, in partnership with others, for the benefit of children in the UK and worldwide, its motto is ‘the child first and always’.

**THE CHALLENGE**

Raise efficiency and cut costs while maintaining business continuity for a range of medical, clinical, and administrative applications

The hospital IT department was a very early adopter of centralised storage so the original service was due for renewal. Organisations are now completely reliant upon IT services and data is a key part of that – hospitals such as GOSH have continually expanding data requirements so the service had to be scalable. Every new clinical device or medical system introduced into the hospital now has its own data requirements. “We use our IT infrastructure to save time, reduce risk and thus improve service to patients,” says Wingfield-Hill. “Our nurses and clinicians monitor patients electronically while they sleep, they use cardiac scans of the heart and soft tissue and medical PACS images for diagnosis and treatment. All of this data takes up space and must be readily available when needed by the clinician – day or night.”

With a long list of mandatory requirements including flexibility, ease of management and the ability to handle a vast array of data types from specialist medical imaging to documents and email, GOSH undertook a competitive evaluation of the storage market. “We have an immense amount of data that is constantly growing,” says Wingfield-Hill. "If our cardiac department suddenly has a need for additional storage to support an innovative research project we must be able to respond, however we also don’t want to have banks of storage capacity lying idle.”

**KEY HIGHLIGHTS**

**Industry**

Health

**The Challenge**

Raise efficiency and cut costs while maintaining business continuity for centralised storage services

**The Solution**

Deploy NetApp® unified storage with MetroCluster® software and synchronous mirroring

**Benefits**

- Maintain business continuity through centralised storage services
- Achieve 99.99% availability for access to data essential for patient care
- Provision storage space for clinical and corporate data faster and more flexible
- Add capacity as needed, avoid idle resources and save costs.

Success Stories

Great Ormond Street Hospital Increases Storage Efficiency And Business Continuity with NetApp MetroCluster Solution
“NetApp has given us resilience and redundancy for our critical medical activities in an easy to manage platform.”

Geraldine Wingfield-Hill
Head of IT Service Management, Great Ormond Street Hospital

Scalability, and the facility to add capacity as slower or faster types of storage within the same platform were key features of the GOSH requirements.

THE SOLUTION
Deploy NetApp unified storage with MetroCluster software and synchronous mirroring
Following a product evaluation, a NetApp MetroCluster solution was chosen based on performance, functionality, ease of administration and competitive pricing.

NetApp MetroCluster is a unique solution that combines array-based clustering with synchronous mirroring to deliver continuous availability and zero data loss. As a self-contained solution a MetroCluster based storage platform is able to recover transparently from failures ensuring that mission-critical applications continue uninterrupted. Administration overheads and risk of human error are also reduced through its elimination of repetitive change management activities. “With the dual site setup, if one site is unavailable due to a power problem or major incident my staff can focus on service checks rather than fire fighting,” says Wingfield-Hill. “The NetApp system automatically falls over and the provision of data is seamless. NetApp has given us resilience and redundancy for our critical medical activities in an easy to manage platform.”

BUSINESS BENEFITS
Increase storage efficiency
The NetApp MetroCluster is already delivering major benefits to the hospital. De-duplication facilities are optimising storage capacity by providing GOSH with an intelligent and automatic method of stripping out duplicate files and conserving storage space while retaining data integrity. Disaster recovery and business continuity is ensured with the mirroring from one site to another with automatic failover facilities in case of a serious problem.

Most of the installation and all of the configuration was done directly by NetApp and the hospital was able to access the highest levels of technical expertise from NetApp global services. Having a strategic relationship with the vendor was key to the success of this mission-critical installation.

Storage capabilities much more flexible
Although a level of in-house knowledge is still required for the day-to-day administration and maintenance of the new GOSH NetApp storage solution, it is proving to be a lot more straightforward to manage than the old system with faster and easier provisioning of storage space. “We can be much more responsive when dealing with requests for additional storage space,” says Wingfield-Hill. “Allocation of storage is now so flexible and immediate. Our MetroCluster has been live since February and works well for us, conserving space while optimising our storage service.”

“Our strategic objectives are no waste, no waits and no harm. NetApp Metrocluster is helping meeting those targets though 99.99% reliable and fast data storage which is available to meet capacity on demand.” says Wingfield-Hill.

Installing NetApp FAS3140 systems with NetApp MetroCluster software has allowed GOSH to implement a storage strategy that will last for at least the next five years. In addition, the green credentials of the NetApp appliances with their lower power consumption, reduced cooling requirement and smaller footprint are contributing positively to GOSH’s environmental targets.

SOLUTION COMPONENTS
NetApp products
NetApp FAS3140
NetApp FAS3140HA
NetApp Deduplication
NetApp MetroCluster software
NetApp SnapManager® for VI
NetApp SnapManager for SQL
NetApp SnapManager for Exchange
NetApp SnapMirror®
NetApp SnapRestore®
NetApp Snapshot™
NetApp SyncMirror®
NetApp Global Services

Protocols
FCP, iSCSI, CIFS

NetApp creates innovative storage and data management solutions that accelerate business breakthroughs and deliver outstanding cost efficiency. Discover our passion for helping companies around the world go further, faster at www.netapp.co.uk

© Copyright 2010 Netapp, Inc. All rights reserved. No portions of this document may be reproduced without prior written consent of Netapp, Inc. Specifications are subject to change without notice. NetApp, the NetApp logo, Go further, faster, MetroCluster, SnapManager, SnapMirror, SnapRestore, Snapshot, and SyncMirror are trademarks or registered trademarks of NetApp, Inc. in the United States and/or other countries. All other brands or products are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders and should be treated as such.