PeerSpot

Case Study

Tintri VMstore

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Review by a Real User

Verified by PeerSpot

What is our primary use case?

We use it for all our VMs. It's our primary VM storage. 97% of our architecture is completely virtualized. We won't run a VM unless it's on Tintri. We also use it in our automation.

How has it helped my organization?

Tintri has changed the way that you do NFS for VMs, which is a big deal. Usually, NFS for VMs is very chatty and causes you a lot of problems. Tintri rewrote the NFS for virtuality that allows each basic VM to get its own line at the checkout stand. What this does is that it gives much more response. I don't have problems with performance. I can virtualize pretty much anything without any slowdown or any issues. Plus, I'm easily able to replicate or clone hundreds of VMs up from one in an instance. With automation tied with our Ansible, Tintri is one of the most powerful tools in our toolbox.

It frees up my guys to innovate. They're not dealing with slow storage calls. They're not dealing with performance calls. Storage used to be a big issue where one person was maintaining it all the time. Not having to maintain that storage or groom or manicure that storage gives them the freedom to do other things. Tintri is like its own employee because it allows you to do other things besides storage. It has helped very much to reduce administrative time.

In terms of visibility, it gives me enough ammo so that when all the finger-pointing starts, I can always point to the network and say, "Hey, it's you."

We're constantly developing, iterating, and doing new VMs. So, the ability to move fast and

the ability to have high-speed storage is valuable. In the case of something like Atlassian where you work with Jira and you're rolling out your own updates or something like that, you might need to iterate a 500-gig server six times to find all the issues. Even Atlassian will tell you that the first time you upgrade their stuff, it doesn't usually work, so get ready to try it again in your lab. When you are working in a lab environment or need to do things like that, the abilities that the backend of Tintri has are just amazing. They allow you to utilize and take advantage of that. I can spin up five 500-gig VMs without taking a hit to my data store, my performance, or my total overall storage. That's because of the way Tintri does the dedup and the blocks. It has already got all these blocks until the delta gets changed. Even though you've got five 500-gig VMs, which should be 2,500 gigs or 2.5 terabytes, it's not seeing it as that because it has got to compact it and basically zip, but they're all running until the delta gets far enough apart. That allows me to do things I wasn't able to do on my NetApp. It was like you can only have one other copy, and that's it because it's going to be a one-to-one clone.

It enables replication, snapshots, and setting QoS at the virtual machine level, which is super important. We don't use quality of service because the service is so good. Once in seven years, I might have used that. It's already running and performing. So, the QoS runs on its own. It's great.

What is most valuable?

Its performance is amazing. Since I have put Tintri in, I haven't had a complaint from anybody about slowness. On top of that, there is block-level cloning and the ability to spin up VMs. We use that in our architecture. We don't deploy in a traditional manner anymore by using a kickstart server, ISO, or anything. We keep VM templates, not even VMware templates. We utilize Tintri with Ansible to provision our environments, and it's pretty awesome. It's instantaneous and very cool.

Its GUI is very good now. For a long time, it had been Flash. When Flash got deprecated, they were able to roll out everything to HTML5. The new HTML5 is in Tintri Global Center as well as on the individual VM stores, which is great. In the NetApp days, NetApps were dinosaurs. It took one person to manage the storage, carve out LUNS, carve out aggregates, etc. One person would spend all his time on storage, whereas Tintri is like a 30-minute challenge where you can order a Domino's pizza and get it. You plug it in, and it just runs. It is that intuitive and that simple. The GUI is very straightforward. It shows you a nice mapping of the hardware and everything else and how it's working. It's a true example of plug-and-play. For something which is as important as your storage, I can't emphasize how much and how important that is. It is literally one of the single most important pieces of hardware I have in my data centers.

I have a T880, T800, and T1000. The problem Tintri has is that they make their products so

good that you don't ever need to replace them. You just need to buy more. They have kind of shot themselves in the foot with that. I update my software, and I've never reached the end where I couldn't update the software. I'm still running a couple of six-year-old Tintri that are killing what people bought yesterday. They had some initial issues with their first offering and their old management before they were bought by DDN, but the hardware and the platform have always been solid and spectacular. When they had all that issues, I stuck tight and held them. I was like, "No, this hardware is too good." I believed in it, and then DDN came and picked it up. They saw what I saw. Anybody who uses it will have the same opinion.

What needs improvement?

I'm waiting to see the Kubernetes package. I know they're releasing one, but I haven't seen it yet. So, I'm waiting to see that.

As long as they stay, I don't want them to rest on their laurels. They're been great. I want them to continue innovating. The way it is VM-aware storage, it'd be nice to see cluster-aware storage as well. That'd be cool, and I know they're working on that.

For how long have I used the solution?

I have been using this solution for about seven years.

What do I think about the stability of the solution?

They're pretty stable now.

What do I think about the scalability of the solution?

It's very scalable.

How are customer service and support?

They're great. We had to have a drive and a controller plate repaired. There have been three or four calls in seven years. They were great. Within four hours, they fixed it, and nothing has ever gone down. Everything that's been done persisted. I would rate them a 9 out of 10.

How would you rate customer service and support?

Positive

Which solution did I use previously and why did I switch?

I was previously on NetApp, and then we looked pretty thoroughly when we went to Tintri. I looked at Pure. I looked at Tegile. We got 3PAR in our data center as well for databases. We

were all over the place. We looked at NetApp again.

At the time, we were very much a NetApp business. We had five racks of NetApps. The guy that got me looking at storage was the guy from Pure, and it wasn't Tintri at all. The guy from Pure said, "Well what if I could do your five racks of storage in like 4U? And I was like, "4U? You're kidding me. No way. You can't do that." So, I started looking at Pure. I liked Pure first and was looking at them, but then they had this big thing with their iSCSI. I was like, "Ah, I don't want to change all my NFS and networks." So, I got ready to shop more.

We looked at Tegile, and then we looked at NetApp, but NetApp would have required a forklift. I just didn't like what they were doing, and then we came to Tintri. It was really impressive. The guys who had solved virtualization at VMware had left and gone to solve the issue for storage. Their storage was great, and the product was great. The product was just amazing. At the end of the day, that's what it came down to, and when you add that with the pricing, you can't lose.

I took a lot of flak internally in my company by standing by Tintri because we had bought all these Tintris, and then Tintri went bankrupt. I stood by them and said, "Hey, let's not jump ship." A lot of people I knew ripped out their Tintri and put in a Pure because they were like, "I have to have something I can build. I have to get more." And I was like, "Just wait, just wait. Trust me." I waited, and I saw Western and DDN go at it. Either one of them was going to be great. DDN won, and DDN has been a great partner. I've seen them advance, buy, and try to move the needle. That does make me very happy to know that it's in a much safer, stable place with DDN because I was getting the side eyes from C-level executives saying, "Hey, we just put all this money into Tintri, and they just went belly up." So, to see the validity of my faith in the product was good. It was very good to see that somebody else saw the same thing, bought it, and took it to that stable level. I was very happy with it.

How was the initial setup?

You can order a pizza and set it up. You got two management cables, two data cables, and a replication cable. You just plug it in.

I moved one the other day because we moved our lab, and it took under 10 minutes. There are two rails that pop in. The toughest part is the rails. You got to lift the box out. You have another person there to help you, and in five to seven minutes, you're in. It takes you longer to plug in cables and power cords and run them than it does to do anything else.

In terms of maintenance, we upgrade the software once every six months.

What about the implementation team?

We have a VAR, P1 Technologies, that we work

through, but we do all the work ourselves. They've been our teacher, and they've been a partner. In the seven years, I've been through many different people at Tintri. A lot of the same people are still there, but I've been with my VAR the whole time. They've never changed.

What was our ROI?

We have seen an ROI. It's worth the money.

It has helped to reduce our total cost of ownership, but I don't have the metrics. We use it heavily in our automation platforms.

What's my experience with pricing, setup cost, and licensing?

It's very competitive.

What other advice do I have?

I would advise playing with it. Don't hesitate. Go buy it. Jump into that Tintri toolkit. There are a lot of cool features in there. Once you stop looking at storage for what storage does, you can find many other things that it does and you're like, "Wow, I didn't even know I could do that with my storage because I've been so busy focusing on these three areas. Now that I don't even think about those three areas anymore, I can use my storage for this." So, think outside the box and play with that Tintri toolkit. It's time to get on the Tintri train and stop thinking about your storage.

I would rate it a 10 out of 10.

Which deployment model are you using for this solution?

On-premises

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