



## CASE STUDY

# TPT Retirement Solutions Accelerates DevOps Cycles with Tintri VMstore™

## Overview

TPT Retirement Solutions is one of the UK's leading providers of workplace pensions, high quality administration and award-winning investment solutions. Its mission is to make pension schemes perform better for everyone.

With more than 75 years of pensions expertise, TPT Retirement Solutions delivers the experience, heritage and scale needed to provide market-leading pension schemes that people can feel confident about.

## The Challenge: Managing the Dynamic Development Cycles of DevOps Environments

The pension industry is more complicated now than it's ever been and presents new challenges every day. The development team at TPT Retirement Solutions is tasked with maintaining operational stability while adhering to evolving regulations within the pensions industry.

"We have a fairly large development team that manages an application for pensions," says Gavin Lowrie, IT manager, TPT Retirement Solutions. "There are a lot of regulations around pensions, and it changes on a regular basis. They need environments to test and work through problems to make sure that everything is working properly."

"In pensions everything is data because it's all our business calculations, how much money would members pay and how much money we pay out. The ability to bring up an environment from the live data and making sure that the dev teams have the correct data at the time they need to use it is critical. The calculations can vastly change every month over years depending on a variety of factors," adds Simon Drake, DevOps engineer, TPT Retirement Solutions.

The demands of TPT Retirement Solutions' test/dev environment were expanding and required a reliable storage solution that would allow the teams to quickly clone virtual machines and complete testing in a timely manner.

## The Solution: Tintri VMstore Delivers VM-Centric Cloning, Snapshots and Replication

TPT Retirement Solutions called on Tintri to provide the answer.

When TPT Retirement Solutions purchased Tintri VMstore, it was initially used for the VDI environment, but its capabilities were soon recognized, leading to its adoption across the entire organization.

"Tintri VMstore was first deployed because of the VMware ESXi and VM nature, allowing us to use the VDI platform we have in place," says Simon. "Today, the business has grown around Tintri VMstore and is now the backbone of our ESXi estate."

TPT Retirement Solutions recently upgraded its Tintri VMstore T580 to a VMstore T7040. Upon evaluating other storage vendors, and before choosing to remain with Tintri, TPT Retirement Solutions discovered that other vendors provided solutions that were too costly and complex to manage.

"We evaluated various alternatives and decided that we didn't want to go the hyperconverged infrastructure route because once bought, additional resources must be purchased to expand," says Simon. "Whereas with Tintri VMstore, you don't need to."

# VMstore



## Challenges

TPT Retirement Solutions is one of the UK's leading providers of workplace pensions, high quality administration and award-winning investment solutions. TPT Retirement Solutions needed a reliable and flexible storage solution that would allow the dev/test teams to quickly clone VMs and accelerate DevOps cycles.

## Solution

TPT Retirement Solutions implemented Tintri VMstore solutions to enable cloning, replication and snapshots at the VM level. The VMstore solutions provided significant time savings, performance improvements and autonomous operations.

## Results

- Speed optimization automatically scales resources to meet the individual needs of each VM
- Full NVMe flash configuration delivering improved IOPS for both read and write operations
- Streamlined administrative tasks
- World-class support service



You can just put more CPU and some power on more ESXi boxes and plug them into the Tintri solution. From my standpoint it was a no brainer because we already use the Tintri partial plugins to do all the cloning. The other companies we evaluated said that they do essentially the same thing, but failed measurably because the systems were all off LUNs compared to VMs like Tintri.”

“One of the main reasons why we chose Tintri VMstore was the granular visibility and enablement of replication and snapshots at the VM level. It’s the simplicity that Tintri provides. Tintri gives us the ability to clone machines for development work quickly and without having to jump through millions of hoops,” adds Gavin.

## The Results: Significant Time Savings, Performance Improvements & Autonomous Operations

With Tintri VMstore in place, TPT Retirement Solutions has reaped a multitude of benefits.

“Tintri VMstore’s ability to snap virtual machines into VMware quickly is extremely important for our organization,” Simon notes. “We went with Tintri because it just works. It would take four or five times longer if we had to spend our time provisioning LUNs to machines, and we would need a much bigger team which is something we don’t have.”

Tintri VMstore effectively eliminated storage performance issues for TPT Retirement Solutions’ VMware virtual desktop environment. With the enhanced performance and increased I/O throughput provided by Tintri VMstore, end users are experiencing significantly fewer performance-related problems.

“We have been using the T7040 NVMe storage system and its performance for demanding workloads has been excellent,” says Gavin. “The IOPS are significantly faster as a result of the switch from a hybrid flash and disk configuration to a full NVMe flash configuration. The overall performance is very impressive and has allowed us to do more, as well as meet our growing needs, compared to the previous generation of storage systems.”

“Tintri VMstore has streamlined our administrative tasks, and we view it as a unified data repository. So, from an administrative standpoint, we simply connect to VMware and it seamlessly provides storage capabilities,” adds Simon. “Implementing autonomous operations has eliminated the need to handle end-user issues, freeing up our time to focus on other priorities.”

TPT Retirement Solutions has come to trust and appreciate the responsiveness of Tintri’s world-class support service.

“Because I manage a small team, being able to hop on a call with support and get any issue that might arise resolved quickly is a massive bonus,” says Gavin. “I come from a services background and know fully well that building relationships and sharing expertise as a trusted advisor for customers is like the golden goose.”

“For organizations solely using VMware ESXi and seeking a unified storage solution, Tintri VMstore has proven to be a valuable asset, meeting all our requirements and exceeding expectations,” Simon concludes.

*Experience Carefree Virtual Data Management. Experience Tintri. For more information on how Tintri VMstore can turbo-charge your business success, visit [tintri.com/vmstore](https://tintri.com/vmstore).*

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*Gavin Lowrie, IT manager, TPT Retirement Solutions*



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