NetApp®

The Brooklyn Hospital Center: 170 Years of Care

The Brooklyn Hospital Center
Keeping Brooklyn healthy.

Another NetApp
solution delivered by:

e⁺

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Industry
Healthcare

The Challenge
Update the data center, optimize the delivery of care, and leverage opportunities for collaboration and new revenue streams.

The Solution
Deploy VMware vSphere® on FlexPod® Datacenter solution to provide fast, reliable data access and the agility to serve patients more effectively.

Benefits
- Speed transition to cutting-edge IT technology with no disruption to clinicians
- Convert 100 physical servers to virtual machines backed by a single converged infrastructure
- Scale IT to support more patients, more applications, and new initiatives
- Turn the data center into a profit center

A Mission of Care

History has it that The Brooklyn Hospital Center (TBHC) was inspired by a man who broke his leg near Brooklyn City Hall. Unable to find local care, his only option was to go to the almshouse four miles away. Incorporated by the New York state legislature, TBHC began caring for the community, especially its poorest and most vulnerable members, in 1845. It also tended to sick and wounded soldiers returning from the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and World War I and II.

Occupying the same 19th-century buildings of its early days, TBHC continues to provide compassionate, quality care to the underserved in Brooklyn and the surrounding New York City boroughs.

The Challenge
Healthcare for all

With more people than ever relying on TBHC, it must continually find ways to stretch Medicaid and Medicare dollars further while maintaining its standard of excellence. An advocate for the underserved, TBHC also wants to become more involved in national healthcare initiatives related to this cause.

To help TBHC achieve these objectives and broaden its mission of care, Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer Bill Moran and Chief Technology Officer Ken Pandaleon began investigating ways to make IT work harder, smarter, and more cost-efficiently for the hospital.

The Solution
Transformation through technology

Deemed the best way to empower the hospital, the team began to explore enterprise-level converged infrastructure solutions. NetApp, along with long-time partner ePlus, quickly drew attention with a prevalidated, preconfigured VMware vSphere on FlexPod Datacenter solution and comprehensive support. ePlus also offered financing to help TBHC quickly move the project forward.

FlexPod offered a fast, low-risk deployment as well as easy consolidation and simplification of TBHC's siloed IT environment—which included externally shared and hosted applications and platforms such as messaging and electronic health records (EHR). It also provided an easily scaled infrastructure to meet the hospital's growing needs,

including collaborative government-funded initiatives with new affiliate Mount Sinai Hospital. It even opened the possibility to turn TBHC's data center into a profit center.

"NetApp and ePlus are helping us turn IT into a powerful tool with their innovative and action-oriented approach," says Moran. "We've got the perfect team working with us."

An empowering investment

TBHC deployed its first FlexPod Datacenter solution at a temporary site while its primary data center site underwent structural, power, and cooling renovations. Up and running in two weeks, the solution includes a two-node NetApp FAS8040 storage cluster with NetApp Flash Cache™ and Flash Pool™ intelligent caching.

For doctors and nurses who previously struggled with slow and inconvenient data access across a range of systems, TBHC's shared, high-performance NetApp storage cluster is a welcome change. With test results, images, and other pertinent patient data instantly available, clinicians can more rapidly diagnose and treat patients.

The NetApp storage cluster is combined with Cisco® Unified Computing System™ (UCS®) blade servers, Cisco Nexus® switches, and UCS fabric interconnects to form a fully converged infrastructure tightly integrated with VMware®. Since deployment, TBHC has dramatically reduced its physical server count and virtualized 80% of its applications, with more to come. The new infrastructure is significantly less costly to own and operate, which means more dollars can be reinvested to further enhance delivery of care.

Cisco UCS Manager and NetApp clustered Data ONTAP® tools enable the IT team to optimize workloads and direct resources wherever they are needed—without impacting hospital operations. "2015 is a major transformation year for The Brooklyn Hospital Center. Our partnership with NetApp allows us to take advantage of next-generation FlexPod technologies and service our physicians and support staff in a way that is more productive and efficient for our organization," says Moran.

With plenty of room to expand, major platforms such as a 2,200-seat Exchange platform are being deployed with ease. "We can now deploy applications in hours instead of weeks—and our staff benefits from new functionality almost immediately," says Pandaleon.

The FlexPod platform at the temporary site will soon be deployed to the updated primary data center. The temporary site will then become TBHC's new disaster recovery facility, equipped with another FlexPod configuration.

Business Benefits

Better care, higher satisfaction

Despite being in the early stages of deployment, FlexPod is making a tremendous difference in the day-to-day activities of clinicians at TBHC. "With faster, more reliable access to patient records, our doctors and nurses can now spend more time treating patients," says Moran.

More autonomy, greater savings

With topnotch performance and plenty of capacity, FlexPod enables TBHC to optimally house previously shared applications in-house and to save millions by eventually bringing remotely hosted platforms on site as well. "It's all part of our plan for greater independence," says Moran. "We can use our own technology to best advantage."

New revenue streams

In addition to leveraging FlexPod technology to advance TBHC's goals, Moran envisions marketing its IT resources to the local healthcare community. Providers would benefit from a secure, cost-efficient solution to host their applications and data, and be able to share data with others in the network for optimized patient care. "We're excited about using our FlexPod infrastructure to connect our community and help us produce revenue," says Moran. "This could open up limitless possibilities for furthering our mission of care."

SOLUTION COMPONENTS

FlexPod Components
Dual NetApp FAS8040 storage systems running NetApp clustered Data ONTAP 8.2 with NetApp Flash Cache and Flash Pool technology

Cisco Unified Computing System (UCS) blade servers supported by Cisco UCS Manager

Cisco Nexus switches

Cisco UCS fabric interconnects

Virtualization Components
VMware vSphere 5.5

vCenter™ Server 5.5

Third-Party Software
Administrative, clinical, and financial applications including Microsoft® Exchange, Allscripts Sunrise EHR, INFINITT PACS, and Lawson ERP

Protocols
NFS

FCoE

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