

Leighton Broadcasting lowers infrastructure costs by at least 50% by virtualizing its mission-critical infrastructure with **StarWind HCI Appliance (HCA)**

LEIGHTON MEDIA

About the company

Leighton Broadcasting is a Minnesota-based media company operating a network of radio stations while also providing integrated marketing, advertising, digital media, and creative services through its family of businesses. Serving communities across Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin, the company combines traditional broadcasting with digital solutions.

Industry

Media & Entertainment

Location

North America (United States)

Solution

StarWind HCI Appliance (HCA)

"You are awesome! StarWind cut the cost of our physical automation system by at least 50% being virtualized."

Tony Abfalter,
Director of Engineering/IT

Challenge

Before deploying StarWind HCI Appliance (HCA), Leighton Broadcasting relied on a purely physical infrastructure, making disaster recovery slow and resource-intensive. Recovering from hardware failures required manual intervention using external USB hard drives, resulting in recovery times of three to four days and prolonged service interruptions. The organization evaluated multiple infrastructure solutions, but many failed to provide the required balance of high availability (HA), reliability, and cost efficiency.

The existing environment also required ongoing investments in physical hardware, increasing maintenance overhead.

Solution

Leighton Broadcasting deployed StarWind HCI Appliance to build an HA virtualized infrastructure that significantly improved reliability, fault tolerance, and disaster recovery capabilities. Automatic failover between nodes reduced recovery times from several days to just minutes, ensuring continuous availability of critical applications, databases, and file services.

The new infrastructure lowered rack space, power consumption, and hardware requirements while reducing operational costs. By virtualizing its automation system, the company cut infrastructure costs by 50% and created a scalable platform for future initiatives, including next-generation virtualization and a unified production/control studio capable of serving as an emergency control room.