Share IT Limited expands the range of its IT services thanks to enhancing a production environment with StarWind

**Problem**

Before StarWind Virtual SAN (VSAN) deployment, Share IT Limited had physical HP servers and Cisco networks. Whilst nearly all the company’s infrastructure is highly available (HA) with clustered Hyper-V and VMware hypervisors, HA networks, firewalls, and switches, its storage was always a single point of failure (SPOF). The organization needed a storage system that would complete its HA infrastructure. Historically, Share IT Limited used single-node open-source storage arrays which, whilst cost-effective, were not really suitable for use in a production environment. To make the arrays perform better, the RAM cache was often used to buffer the writes that the disks could not keep up with and cache the frequently accessed reads. The issue was that should the array suffer power loss or a crash, any data stored in RAM is lost which can cause corruption. Having a single node array, the company was also unable to patch as often as it would like due to the required scheduled downtimes and fear that the array would not come back up after the patching. Overall, there were many shortfalls that left Share IT Limited looking for a solution that it never thought it would find.

The company needed a product that would replicate in real-time (synchronously) so that it could use RAM caching without the fear of losing data in the event of power failure. With StarWind VSAN, the company can patch, update, and perform routine maintenance without concern and without having to schedule downtime with the company’s customers.

Currently Share IT Limited has a 2-node StarWind cluster that presents iSCSI storage to both Hyper-V and VMware clusters over a dedicated 10GbE network. Its performance and reliability have exceeded the company’s expectations considerably. With StarWind VSAN, Share IT Limited can expand as it needs with very little learning curve, all at a reasonable price.

Choosing StarWind meant that we finally had a solution that provided us with HA storage.

**Managing Director**