

The University of Oxford reduces storage expansion costs by adopting hyperconvergence with StarWind Virtual SAN (VSAN)



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

About the company

Oxford is a collegiate university, consisting of the central University and colleges. The 38 colleges, including the Department of Physics, are self-governing institutions, related to the central University in a federal system.

Industry

Education

Location

EMEA (Great Britain)

Solution

StarWind Virtual SAN (VSAN)

"We chose StarWind mainly because of the cost compared to other vendors. Simplicity of setup was also a major factor and I like the fact that you don't need a vendor-certified engineer to perform the installation."

John Harris,
Windows System Administrator

Challenge

Before deploying StarWind Virtual SAN (VSAN), the Department of Physics at the University of Oxford had vSphere-based high availability (HA) storage, which was becoming prohibitively expensive to expand. The sophisticated setup, built on Dell SAN and Viglen Storage servers with third-party HA storage software, offered the necessary scalability. However, the costs associated with any increase in compute or storage resources were high due to major vendor lock-in and the numerous proprietary hardware components required for expansion.

The Department needed a flexible solution to continue scaling its IT infrastructure.

Solution

By deploying StarWind VSAN, the Department of Physics successfully reduced the cost of expanding its storage for the vSphere cluster. This solution eliminated the dependency on expensive proprietary hardware, enabling a more economical and straightforward expansion process.

Looking ahead, the Department plans to extend the use of StarWind VSAN to its Hyper-V deployment, replacing the CA ARCserve RHA setup for virtual file servers. This strategic move aims to cut down the resynchronization time required during Hyper-V host reboots, particularly during patching cycles. By using StarWind VSAN, the Department not only lowered its storage expansion costs but also streamlined its IT operations.