

Formica Group achieves high-performance infrastructure and realizes significant savings with StarWind



About the Company

Formica Group is the American world's largest manufacturer of high-pressure laminate for use in residential and commercial buildings with more than ninety years of experience. The company has factories in England, France, Germany, Spain, Canada, and Taiwan.

Company Profile

Laminate manufacturing & Decoration

Contact Person

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Problem

The company had costly infrastructure over-provisioned on hardware resources and limited on storage.

Solution

StarWind HCA allowed the company to reduce its power and hosting costs within its data centers, while greatly improving storage capacity.

Problem

Formica Group maintains equipment in three separate data centers with unique IT infrastructures in each. Differences in such fundamentals as compute and storage allocation and backup procedures added complexity to a geographically diverse infrastructure. The hardware was eventually at its end of life, it lacked storage and was over-provisioned on compute resources providing little in the way of flexibility for future projects. It required overly high financing just for business as usual support, with no clearly defined method for recovery in the event of a significant outage.

The company initially was looking for direct hardware replacements, such as Blade & SAN, further considering even the use of cloud IaaS. Whilst coming to the conclusion that extended storage could solve some of the inherent problems, Nutanix, HyperGrid, and SimpliVity were then considered as options for hosts for general purpose workloads. After multiple evaluations, StarWind was the clear winner in terms of performance and cost.

Solution

With the deployment of **StarWind HyperConverged Appliance (HCA)**, Formica Group significantly reduced its power and hosting costs within its data centers, while greatly improving storage capacity.

Formica Group managed to reduce its global data center hypervisor count from 22 to 8 through implementing a hyperconverged infrastructure and simultaneously double its effective storage capacity.

The company is very satisfied with the work of the **StarWind support team** that was on hand 24x7 to answer questions and help build, ship, and deploy HCA to each site.

Overall, StarWind helped Formica Group to increase its infrastructure performance, reduce complexity and administration, and save money in one project deployment.



The ROI in our North American data center is under 12 months and on course to generate savings of nearly \$450,000 in 24 months.

Matt Collier, Group Infrastructure Engineer