

The National Archives of Estonia reinvents its old IT-infrastructure into a failover cluster with **StarWind Virtual SAN (VSAN)**



RAHVUSARHIIV

About the Company

The National Archives of Estonia is a government agency tasked with collecting, preserving, and documenting the history, culture, nationhood, and social conditions in Estonia. The agency preserves the Estonian cultural heritage, observe the citizens' basic rights and duties and facilitates the transparency of its democracy.

Company Profile

Government archival agency

Contact Person

Mart Vernik, IT Administrator

Problem

The agency needed a virtualization solution to optimize the performance of its existing SAN by creating a failover cluster.

Solution

StarWind VSAN allowed the agency to acquire a cost-efficient solution that ensured HA, fault-tolerance, and flexibility without upgrading its hardware.

Problem

The National Archives of Estonia constantly receives and processes endless amounts of data that keeps on coming in various formats from the social activity in Estonia. The agency must follow meticulous governmental standards while dealing with said data. Such conditions demand that applications are always available, fault-tolerant, and safe. The growing amounts of incoming data began to slow the IT-infrastructure down causing the need for upgrades. Before deploying **StarWind VSAN**, the agency's IT-environment was built around Dell® AX4-5 server array interconnected via redundant Fiber Channel (FC) switches and Host Bus Adapters (HBAs) with VMware ESXi serving as the hypervisor. Bare-metal server arrays have limitations due to size, type, connection, and physical network requirements. The said configuration could not stand up to the growing work challenges. It became harder to reach the desired performance and other system threats were beginning to appear on the horizon. The agency was searching for alternative ways of optimizing its IT-infrastructure without acquiring new traditional storage — and that's when it met StarWind.

Solution

The main attraction **The National Archives of Estonia** found in StarWind VSAN was the chance to avoid purchasing expensive new proprietary hardware. The agency did not consider other options and proceeded to testing out our solution straight away. Having seen that it achieves High Availability (HA) with only two nodes, while other vendors would require at least three to do so, the decision was adopted without deliberation. VSAN removed the complexity in operating its environment and granted constant uptime for its applications. The agency also concluded that it would save a considerable amount of funds with deploying VSAN instead of their initial plan. Thus, for a very competitive price, The National Archives of Estonia was able to create a failover cluster with **StarWind VSAN**, achieving HA, fault-tolerance, and flexibility instead of buying traditional storage solutions.



StarWind VSAN creates a highly available environment with just a two-node setup. Similar solutions usually require three nodes minimum. We didn't need to test other options.

Mart Vernik, IT Administrator