



Legal

■ He Who Owns the Information, Owns the World

Legend has it that when Napoleon has lost the Battle of Waterloo, Nathan Mayer Rothschild was one of the first to know it. He made millions. Supposedly, that's when the legendary saying was born. This has always been true for everybody, but the legal industry should perhaps make this its official motto.

Notwithstanding what the name suggests, this sphere of business isn't limited to merely law firms: corporate legal departments, federal, state and local governments, criminal and civil courts. You name it. What is common for all those organizations? They are all heavily dependant on information. Supporting the seamless data flow, compelling security levels, fault-tolerance, and high availability of data centers and work applications are not just preferable - they are vital for the legal IT services. Hence the necessity to rely on the software solutions that can guarantee all those factors.

■ First-hand Problems

Some cinematic stereotypes about wealthy law firms with access to unlimited resources may be accurate, but that certainly isn't the case with the state institutions and SMEs. We do understand that finding and building a cost-efficient IT environment that gets the work done is far from easy when it comes to the IT support for law firms. Hard enough on its own, this task becomes virtually impossible when the standards that must be met and financing are not on the same page. Are you stuck with bare-metal server array configurations that are hard to change and, at its very best, barely keep the wolf from the door? Being held hostage by too expensive SAN providers? You aren't the first, and you won't be the last, especially when you have databases to watch over.

Indeed, almost all businesses have large amounts of client data to be stored and protected. However, information security, availability, and accessibility are the three whales on whom the legal industry rests. The possibility of data loss and their insecurity means losing hard-earned reputation and clientele for private organizations, but for a government institution? It's no less than a catastrophe.

Even if you are satisfied with your data security and overwhelming pricey storage and clustering configurations aren't a problem, there's such thing as the growth of demand. The growing needs and challenges of the clients do require an appropriate response, wherein the least you can offer is a seamless working process and 24/7/365 applications uptime. Today, such things as scalability and high redundancy is not an unnecessary luxury. It's a must-have.

■ What to do Next?

What to do if your organization consistently receives and processes almost endless numbers of data and must follow punctilious governmental standards while dealing with said data that just keeps on coming? What you need are work applications that are fault-tolerant, available, and safe at all times, no matter what. Which, to be fair, is not the most comfortable condition. At least that's what the National Archives of Estonia used to think until they have met StarWind Virtual SAN (VSAN).

Having their environment 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, they have had no actual problems for a while. However, times go on, and soon they have found themselves cornered with the configuration that could not meet growing demands and was hard to improve or replace. Being able to guarantee high availability with only 2 nodes, StarWind VSAN removed the complexity in operating this IT environment and granted constant uptime for its applications without the necessity to purchase expensive proprietary hardware.

Increasing performance and scalability doesn't seem to be so complicated, but what happens when SAN solutions are off the table? The Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand has been operating Windows Server OS running a Hyper-V, which was working just fine... Until it wasn't.

Since the performance levels were too far from perfect, no wonder that this organization has decided to scale up their storage to increase performance level and reach a higher uptime percentage. With StarWind VSAN, the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand managed to leverage their existing Windows Server environment with highly available storage infrastructure. The result has not only provided the required performance but has also increased system uptime!

That's not just a pleasant bonus, though. In this business, uptime is tremendously important, especially when the whole country is at stake. The National Agency of Project Management under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan is aimed at the proper distribution of resources in governmental system reformation, economic and social spheres. So, it's only logical that the organization wanted 24/7/365 application uptime, which StarWind VSAN has supported by creating a fault-tolerant storage pool that enabled the National Agency of Project Management unbeatable performance of the applications.

StarWind can provide you with IT services for law firms that respond to your needs in building a robust, reliable, and fault-tolerant IT infrastructure. Our solutions are easy to manage, simple to configure, and, most importantly, we are not the ones to rest on our laurels: StarWind ProActive Premium Support is always there for you if anything goes wrong.