

HP solutions cure storage-management ills at Atrix Labs



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– Network Manager Matt McNulty, Atrix Laboratories, Inc.

Business need:

Atrix Laboratories develops non-oral drug delivery technologies and partners with large drug companies, including Pfizer and Novartis. To meet regulatory and corporate requirements, Atrix must document and archive every step in the drug-development process. The company needed a more adaptive storage infrastructure – one which could accommodate a new submission-management solution, consolidate storage, and improve backups.

Solution overview:

To meet these needs, Atrix, with the help of HP Services, implemented an HP Information Lifecycle Management (ILM) strategy, which employs HP StorageWorks and HP OpenView solutions – including HP OpenView Storage Data Protector, HP StorageWorks Virtual Array systems, HP OpenView Continuous Access Storage Appliance (CASA), and HP StorageWorks Command View and HP Secure Path software. Atrix also uses a wide range of HP ProLiant servers, yielding an end-to-end enterprise solution that provides optimal IT utilization through HP virtualization.



Secure, scalable HP storage is the right prescription

Atrix Laboratories collaborates with major drug makers while developing new or improved drug delivery technologies for the medical, dental, and veterinary markets. The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) requires that Atrix and its partners maintain records of every aspect of drug development – including memos, reports, clinical studies, and letters.

The drug-development paper trail – including drug-registration dossiers – must be carefully preserved and readily accessible, as part of an ILM strategy. This was one of several key reasons Atrix Laboratories chose HP StorageWorks and HP OpenView storage solutions for its new storage-management systems. For years, Atrix had relied on direct-attached storage (DAS) islands to support individual applications. In early 2003, the firm began investigating ways to consolidate storage and improve the reliability and speed of data backups. Atrix sought to improve storage-management efficiency – while paving the way for a new submission management solution called docuBridge from Lorenz Life Sciences. According to Atrix Network Manager Matt McNulty, the company projects an initial 1 TB jump in data storage requirements as it ramps up use of its newly implemented document management application.

"Our corporate growth and the increasing demands on our IT resources led us to consult HP for ways to improve overall IT efficiency and storage management," McNulty explains. "We were already an HP shop, with more than 20 HP ProLiant servers. We also had a HP StorageWorks Modular Array 8000 at the time, and we love the reliability and capacity of that system. We chose an HP StorageWorks SAN as our core storage resource, and it has proven to be the right choice time after time. We were able to retain and extend our original investment in HP storage by incorporating it into over new architecture."





HP experts offer the antidote: a highly available, agile SAN

HP storage specialists, working alongside consultants from C3 Technology, Inc., assisted Atrix in designing the right SAN solution to meet its current and future needs. At the heart of the Atrix SAN are one HP StorageWorks Virtual Array 7410 and two HP Virtual Array 7110 systems. These provide a total of 5 TB of storage capacity. Two HP StorageWorks Fibre Channel switches and HP StorageWorks Secure Path software provide multi-pathing capabilities and continuous data access, thereby eliminating single points of failure.

"The deployment of a first-class storage system, software, and infrastructure networking switches is a key part of our ILM strategy," says McNulty. "HP StorageWorks Virtual Arrays, configured as a SAN, help us comply with regulatory and retention requirements by giving us scalable capacity and solid reliability and continuous access."

The HP OpenView Continuous Access Storage Appliance (CASA) and HP StorageWorks Command View SDM software provide centralized management and interface choices such as GUI and Web browser. As a result, Atrix's three-person IT staff maintains virtualized control of

all SAN resources – a key element in achieving an adaptive enterprise, HP's vision for all its enterprise customers. The HP SAN is fully integrated with HP's OpenView Storage Area Manager framework to provide the ability to control/manage a heterogeneous fabric environment.

"We anticipate that we will save at least 50 percent of the time it used to take to manage storage," McNulty notes. "HP StorageWorks Command View, in combination with HP Systems Insight Manager on our HP ProLiant servers, shows us everything we need to know relating to our storage resources and server performance. I can control the SAN down to the individual disk, and the reporting capabilities are also excellent."

Ease in storage expansion is another key benefit McNulty appreciates. "If we needed to add a large storage volume to accommodate a new application, it used to take an entire day or more," he says. "With our HP SAN, adding storage is very simple. In 10 minutes, we can pop in a hot drive or expand a LUN (logical unit number). It probably takes us about 95 percent less time to perform these tasks with the HP SAN and HP storage-management tools."

According to McNulty, the ease of storage expansion also makes it simple to consolidate storage from server

islands to the HP SAN. "Moving application data to the HP SAN will improve our efficiency, provide more reliable backups, and enhance application performance," he notes.

"HP StorageWorks Command View, in combination with HP Systems Insight Manager on our ProLiant servers, shows us everything we need to know relating to our storage resources and even server performance. I can control the SAN down to the individual disk, if necessary. The reporting capabilities are also excellent."

– Network Manager Matt McNulty, Atrix Laboratories

HP solution heals backup aches and pains

Backups are faster and easier now. Atrix is using HP OpenView Storage Data Protector software along with the HP StorageWorks SSL1016 Tape Autoloader and high-speed Ultrium 460 drives for offline backup data nightly, from its HP SAN. "Previously, we used Veritas BackupExec for backups," McNulty explains. "However, it was taking too long and jobs would often fail, resulting in incomplete backups. HP OpenView Storage Data Protector software provides disk agents, which allow multiple servers to stream data simultaneously to the HP StorageWorks SSL1016 Tape Autoloader. This combination has doubled our tape capacity and transfer speed – and allowed us to fit our backups into the available window."

Reliability also improved. "Our backups are 100 percent more reliable now," McNulty says, "which is imperative in the pharmaceutical industry. HP OpenView Storage Data Protector software will allow us to continue to scale our backup system to accommodate almost any foreseeable growth on demand. With our HP StorageWorks Virtual Arrays, we also have the ability to implement snapshots and fast file imaging – images we would back up using Data Protector."

"Our HP solutions will play an increasingly pivotal role in aligning our IT services to our business needs and goals," McNulty concludes. Atrix now has a more Adaptive Enterprise, which enables the organization to respond to change faster and with greater flexibility. "They are helping us comply with U.S. regulations and compliance requirements – while making us more responsive and agile."

About Atrix Laboratories

Atrix Laboratories, Inc. (NASDAQ: ATRX) of Fort Collins, Colorado, is an emerging specialty pharmaceutical company focused on advanced drug delivery. With unique sustained-release and topical technologies, Atrix is currently developing a diverse portfolio of proprietary products, including oncology, pain management, and dermatology products. The company (www.atrilabs.com) employs nearly 200 and had sales of \$50 million in 2003.



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Challenge

- Implement a comprehensive ILM infrastructure to provide access to and protection for critical information and documents
- Increase storage-management efficiency and improve flexibility by consolidating islands of direct-attached storage (DAS) to centralized SAN
- Improve backup and storage management in preparation for critical new document-management application
- Provide a single view of critical storage resources
- Fit backups into available window and improve backup reliability
- Implement virtualization storage technology to enable easier management of large storage pools without increasing staff

Solution

Hardware

- 1 HP StorageWorks Virtual Array 7410 and 2 HP Virtual Array 7110 systems configured as a high-performance SAN
- HP OpenView Continuous Access Storage Appliance (CASA)
- 2 HP StorageWorks Edge Switches 2/24 (2-Gbit 24-port Fibre Channel switches)
- HP StorageWorks SSL1016 Tape Autoloader with Ultrium 460 drives
- 23 HP ProLiant servers – models DL320, DL360, DL380, DL760, ML350, and ML370

Software

- HP OpenView Storage Data Protector for enterprise data protection and disaster recovery
- HP OpenView Continuous Access Storage Appliance (CASA) software
- HP StorageWorks Command View SDM
- HP StorageWorks Secure Path
- HP OpenView Storage Area Manager
- HP ProLiant Essentials Rapid Deployment Pack
- HP Systems Insight Manager for server management
- Microsoft Windows 2000 and 2003 operating systems
- docuBridge submission management solution from Lorenz Life Sciences

HP Services

- Storage design and implementation services
- Ongoing 24x7 support

Results

- Reduced storage administration time by 50 percent by providing centralized management of key storage resources
- Improved backup performance by nearly 100 percent
- Eliminated single points of failure with HP Fibre Channel SAN solution
- Dramatic reduction (10 minutes vs. 24-48 hours) in time required to deploy new storage to meet critical new application and user demands

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