Success Story

acens Technologies
Offers the First Hosted Exchange Server 2007 Service in Spain

CUSTOMER PROFILE
Established in 1997, acens is one of the main providers of hosting, housing, and telecommunication services for companies in Spain. Its wide range of services includes hosting Web pages and domain registry, virtual private network (VPN) solutions, and outsourcing of servers and applications. With main offices in Madrid, Barcelona, and Valencia, the company houses hundreds of servers and manages more than 1 gigabit of Internet traffic through a multioperator trunk network. acens has two data centers of more than 5,000 square meters, manages more than 50,000 Internet domains, generates approximately 3,000,000 e-mails, and has more than 15,000 customers. (Source: www.acens.com)

THE CHALLENGE
acens wanted to advance its market leadership position by offering the first hosted Microsoft Exchange Server 2007 service in Spain. However, adding the new service required an expansion of the company’s existing storage infrastructure with easily scalable storage capacity equipped with backup and recovery capabilities.

THE SOLUTION
NetApp, an acens provider since 2000, is responsible for providing and implementing the data storage systems in the acens Internet Data Center in Madrid. The storage platform uses several pieces of NetApp equipment, including:
- NetApp FAS920c storage system for acensMail mailboxes and iSCSI clusters for CIFS file servers
- NetApp FAS3020c storage system for hosted Web sites, MySQL databases, and acensMail mailboxes
- NetApp FAS270 storage system with remote copy of contents via NetApp SnapVault® software and replication and disaster recovery

Because the company was using another NetApp FAS3020c in an iSCSI SAN of similar characteristics, and because the system’s performance had been excellent, the decision was easy. After successful backup and recovery tests, the company chose the NetApp FAS3020 storage system for Microsoft Exchange Server 2007.

With the new solution, acens stores its clients’ Exchange 2007 mailboxes, e-mails, calendars, contacts, and shared directories. The production environment for the enlarged NetApp storage system is based on Hosted Exchange 2007, with 13 servers in an HP c-Class BladeSystem. The storage network includes an iSCSI SAN with a FAS3020c storage system and accelerator cards in each of the four servers in the network, connected through a Gigabit Ethernet network.

The company uses NetApp SnapManager for Exchange Server 2007 for backup and recovery of its e-mail backup copies and its mail. It also uses NetApp SnapDrive for Windows, a data management and storage solution that simplifies the management and increases the availability and reliability of the application data. SnapDrive runs on Windows hosts, integrating with a legacy NTFS file system and with Microsoft Cluster Server (MSCS).

This installation, carried out jointly by acens and NetApp Spain engineers, has provided acens with technical benefits. Among them is the ability to provide a service that is available 24x7x365 and the assurance of rapid disaster recovery. “For acens, the speed of backup and the fast recovery of databases are equally important. Our work experience with NetApp and its support of its equipment is highly satisfactory,” says Gómez.

**BUSINESS BENEFITS**

The NetApp solution ensures very simple storage management and administration by allowing the enlargement and modification of storage without stopping service.

Additionally, the NetApp solution has allowed acens Technologies to reach a new level of system management, agility, and flexibility. With SnapDrive for Windows, server and storage administrators have a server-based solution that offers an easy-to-use wizard-based approach to assigning, managing, and migrating volumes between new and existing NetApp storage resources.

Finally, for the end user, the benefits are equally extraordinary, thanks to the company’s ability to deploy new, robust, and flexible services and products.

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**SOLUTION COMPONENTS**

**NetApp products**
- NetApp FAS3020c storage system
- NetApp SnapManager for Exchange software
- NetApp SnapDrive for Windows software
- NetApp SnapVault software

**Environment**
- Applications: Microsoft Exchange Server 2007
- Database: Microsoft MySQL database
- Server Platform: HP BladeSystem c-Class

**Protocols**
- IP SAN, NAS-CIFS

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