



Success Story

Renishaw uses NetApp to support its Hyper-V virtualisation platform in 70 locations and 30 countries



Another NetApp solution delivered by:



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Industry
Manufacturing

The Challenge
Implement a storage platform that will support Microsoft® Hyper-V® virtualisation on a global scale.

The Solution
Install two FAS3220 HA XIOs at UK data centres and one FAS3220 HA each at data centres in Asia, the Americas, and India.

Benefits

- Best-in-class support for global virtualisation
- Technical competency to meet specific needs
- Strong partnership between NetApp and Microsoft
- Unrivalled support from NetApp for global rollout
- Underpins global operations in 30 countries

Customer Profile

Renishaw is a global company focused on developing products that enable fine measurements, motion control, spectroscopy, metal 3D printing, and precision machining. Its products are designed to significantly advance customers' operational performance, whether improving manufacturing efficiencies, raising product quality, maximising research capabilities, or improving the efficacy of medical procedures.

Its products are used for a wide range of diverse applications, including machine tool automation, coordinate measurement, additive manufacturing, gauging, Raman spectroscopy, machine calibration, position feedback, CAD/CAM dentistry, large-scale surveying, stereotactic neurosurgery, and medical diagnostics.

The company was founded in 1973, and its first product was a touch-trigger probe designed to solve a specific inspection requirement for the Olympus engines used on the supersonic Concorde aircraft. Today, 93% of its products are exported to the United States, Japan, Germany, China, India, Brazil, and many other countries.

The Challenge

From the IT perspective, the company has over 70 global locations in 32 countries and approximately 3,800 employees to support. Given the company's UK roots, its IT infrastructure was largely based in the UK despite its global presence.

To accommodate the needs of its varied groups of employees, Renishaw deployed Microsoft Hyper-V server virtualisation and a suitable storage technology as part of a move toward regionally focused IT. The aim is to provide relevant, easier management and cost-effective service delivery to the staff.

Given its importance to IT operations, integration of the storage technology with Microsoft Hyper-V was central, as was support for iSCSI over 10Gb Ethernet and high performance. The company looked at the storage options available and chose NetApp in conjunction with technology partner Daisy.

Brian Lyall adds, "Physically our storage requirements are very large so our choice was certainly influenced by this. NetApp was a bit of an unknown quantity to us at the time, but the closer we looked it became quite obvious that it was the right

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Brian Lyall

Group IT Development Manager
Renishaw

platform. Daisy helped with a suitable design and were supportive.”

The Solution

As a result a design and a prebuild service were mapped out based on NetApp FAS3220 HA XIO and NetApp FAS3220 HA. The aim was to ensure that the hardware was of a consistent standard. NetApp products were considered to be best in class to meet the needs of a virtualisation platform built on Microsoft. Its global support across international sites was also critical.

Two FAS3220 HA XIOs were installed at Renishaw’s two data centres in Gloucestershire. One FAS3220 HA each was installed at the company’s data centre in Asia, the Americas, and India.

The FAS3220 provides self-managing virtual storage tier flash technologies designed to deliver high IOPS with

low latency and to reduce by up to 75% the number of drives needed for a given level of performance. It incorporates a high-performance processor and memory architecture designed to support flash and enterprise clustering, which made it an ideal fit for Renishaw’s agile infrastructure. Importantly it is also designed to support any combination of application workloads without introducing complexity.

Further, the NetApp clustered Data ONTAP® operating system helps eliminate planned and unplanned downtime.

Business Benefits

Best in Class

Given Renishaw’s extensive use of Microsoft Hyper-V, NetApp’s ability to meet virtualised storage requirements was critical. Brian Lyall says, “Our physical infrastructure is large and virtualisation enables us to keep costs down and efficiency up. NetApp’s best-of-breed approach to virtualised storage is very important because it enables us to carry on with our virtualisation strategy at an economic cost.”

Technical expertise to meet all needs

Renishaw had specific technical requirements based on its virtualisation platform and storage needs. For instance, it needed a platform that was expandable and flexible to meet challenges such as supporting Fibre Channel backups while also ensuring the continued use of 10GbE iSCSI for block-level

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presentation to Renishaw's Hyper-V environment. Brian Lyall adds, “NetApp was very supportive as a company and helped us meet some rigorous technical specifications that we had.”

Partnership strength

A key feature of the NetApp platform is the company's ongoing partnership with Microsoft. This enables innovation to continue with collaboration resulting in increasingly refined virtualisation platforms, including virtual storage. Brian Lyall adds, “Given our extensive use of virtualisation it's certainly reassuring to know that NetApp and Microsoft continue to work together to ensure ever better virtualisation.”

Robust virtualisation and easy management

NetApp FAS3220 HA delivers an architecture that supports virtual storage tiering and data efficiency while also providing integrated data protection, secure multi-tenancy, and seamless scaling. It provides robust enterprise-grade features with tools that make it easy to manage. “NetApp provides intelligent storage which fit very well with what we needed. It didn’t take us long to be convinced of the benefits and its scale, and with 70 global locations to support, its robustness is certainly impressive,” adds Brian Lyall.

SOLUTION COMPONENTS

- NetApp FAS3220 HA XIO
- NetApp FAS3220 HA

Partner: Daisy

www.daisygroup.com



Leading organizations worldwide count on NetApp for software, systems and services to manage and store their data. Customers value our teamwork, expertise and passion for helping them succeed now and into the future.

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