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ZSL
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The Zoological Society of London turns to NetApp & partners to support mission critical work.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Industry
Animal welfare
Not for profit

The Challenge
Implement a storage platform that would boost storage capacity, make management easy, bolster efficiencies and enable it to replace old tape back-up and archiving system.

The Solution
Implement NetApp FAS2552HA, NetApp FAS2554HA and NetApp FAS2554 and integrate Catalogic DPX with NetApp to provide modern, robust and reliable archiving platform.

Benefits
- Industry-leading management and support
- Robust and fast disaster recovery and archiving
- Server consolidation
- Future-proofed platform
- Cost-effective storage

Success Story

The Zoological Society of London turns to NetApp, Catalogic & S3 Consulting to support its mission critical ticketing systems, academic and conservation work, gaining a storage platform defined by easy management, flexible I/O and cost effective operations.

Customer Profile

Founded in 1826, the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is an international scientific, conservation, and educational charity. Headquartered in London, ZSL operates three businesses: ZSL London Zoo, ZSL Whipsnade Zoo and conservation projects in more than 50 countries around the world.

ZSL's overarching mission is to promote and achieve the worldwide conservation of animals and their habitats. An important part of its work is undertaken by the Institute of Zoology (IoZ), the scientific research arm of ZSL and a world-renowned research centre in its own right. It works at the cutting edge of conservation biology, and specialises in scientific issues relevant to preserving animal species and their habitats.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England funds IoZ, with additional funding for ZSL and specific projects coming from various other academic, corporate, governmental and charitable organisations, and a vast number of visitors to both zoos.

The Challenge

ZSL runs a large number of applications central to its daily operations, including its ticketing and membership system, and its research and academic output.

The majority of ZSL revenues come from visitors to its zoos. Its academic work is not only highly regarded in the global peer community, but is also important in making sure ZSL maintains its prestigious standing and continues to attract funding.

Data is clearly important to ZSL. The ticketing system and the data it holds is a vital part of daily business operations. Academic and conservation work, which also includes post-graduate education, is equally essential to ZSL's reputation and future. ZSL was running out of storage space and needed a new platform to support these critical areas.

Approximately five years ago, ZSL moved to a network-attached storage model based on NetApp®

> "Because we already had NetApp technology the jump has been minimal so we could move quickly. But the benefits have stepped up an order of magnitude and we have a future-proofed investment."

Nick Napier
Head of ICT, Zoological Society of London

FAS2040 and FAS2020. This investment was ideal for ZSL's mid-sized distributed IT infrastructure and five years on, the business' evolution meant that it was time for a refresh. ZSL required more storage capacity and a faster system, that could support its virtualised infrastructure and growing organisational needs. Importantly, it also needed to upgrade the old disk-based archiving system.

Nick Napier, head of ICT at ZSL, explains, "We needed new storage for our infrastructure that would include snapshot tools and replication for disaster recovery. We also wanted to get rid of our old tape infrastructure."

The Solution
ZSL engaged with S3 Consulting, a market leader in the provision of virtualisation and cloud focused infrastructure solutions and a long-standing partner of ZSL. S3's expertise and knowledge of the ZSL business dovetailed with ZSL's requirements, and together the businesses decided on a platform based on NetApp.

Mr Napier says, "We already had good experience with NetApp, and after looking at several other competing technologies, it was demonstrably clear that NetApp also provided significant cost savings."

Upgrades to new NetApp FAS2552HA, NetApp FAS2554HA, and NetApp FAS2554 were chosen, providing a combination of SATA and SAS disks, enabling ZSL to create a storage platform that could cope with ever-growing data.

These NetApp technologies provide hybrid storage arrays and are built to deliver robust capabilities, making sure ZSL can control investment and minimise risk as IT needs change. They provide unified support for NAS (which ZSL can seamlessly deploy when needed), SAN workloads which can be configured as a hybrid system, and even an all flash systems in future, to flex with changes in ZSL's performance needs. This latter point around flexibility is particularly important due to the high transactional demands of the ticketing system.

ZSL also chose Catalogic DPX NSB for its archiving solution. DPX integrates with NetApp so backup and recovery times can be significantly reduced, while data protection across the enterprise infrastructure reduces operational costs. Specifically, it enabled ZSL to replace its tape-based backup and archiving platform.

Business Benefits
First rate management and support
The NetApp implementation helped ZSL address one of the concerns around its old platform and the increasing difficulty in trying to manage it. "It's a very intuitive platform to manage and support is top class. We always get support in time and faults are corrected even before we've become aware of them thanks to Auto Support," said Mr Napier.

Robust disaster recovery
ZSL now has a robust data recovery platform to underpin its critical operations thanks to the NetApp integration with Catalogic DPX. It benefits from instant data recovery, instant cloning, data replication, disk-to-disk backup and application-aware backup and recovery. "Our back up to tape technology was becoming outdated and this is where Catalogic came in. We now back-up to disk with the Catalogic software and have abandoned the tape back-up. Archiving is much more effective and robust," adds Mr Napier.

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Unrivaled efficiency

The NetApp platform has led to a raft of benefits in terms of development and management. For instance, the deployment time for its new finance and ticketing systems was significantly reduced, while a 46% deduplication was achieved on its production system. Alongside the Catalogic system, backup windows were reduced from one week to one hour, illustrating the unrivaled efficiencies gained by ZSL.

Consolidation and investment for the future

ZSL has also gained significant virtual server consolidation with multiple workloads, cost-effective larger capacity, and I/O flexibility allowing it to tailor storage demands and protect its investment for future growth.

Mr Napier says: "Because we already knew the NetApp technology, we could move quickly and efficiently to implement the new solution. The benefits of how and what we can now backup are a huge step-up from our old solution and we really have a future-proofed investment."

Cost effectiveness

The NetApp platform has been designed to deliver cost-effective storage. Mr Napier says: "We don't need as much physical storage and the dual SAS/SATA features make it easier to make decisions on where to store data. Collectively, this is making a huge difference to our storage management."

Zoological Society of London (ZSL)

Founded in 1826, the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is an international scientific, conservation and educational charity whose mission is to promote and achieve the worldwide conservation of animals and their habitats. Our mission is realised through our ground-breaking science, our active conservation projects in more than 50 countries and our two Zoos, ZSL London Zoo and ZSL Whipsnade Zoo. For more information visit *www.zsl.org*

SOLUTION COMPONENTS

- NetApp FAS2552HA 24x 900Gb SAS disks
- NetApp FAS2554HA 24x 2Tb SATA disks
- NetApp FAS2554 24x 3Tb SATA disks Flex Clone® and Snap Vault®
- Catalogic DPX NSP 18Tb of block- level data protection

Partner
S3 Consulting

www.thinks3.co.uk

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