

Pharmaceutical service provider formulates tomorrow's medications



NetApp ONTAP protects research and development data in a hybrid cloud.

Turning molecules into new medications often requires service providers for biopharmaceutical innovation and research like this customer. They formulate the active ingredients. High product quality, on-time delivery, and valid data are essential for their business. And it needs storage that supports every step smoothly—despite increasing data volumes, constant time pressure, and complex requirements.

System integrator PROFI AG and NetApp have reorganized the client's data infrastructure and set the stage for the future in a hybrid cloud. NetApp® ONTAP® storage in a data fabric brings simplicity, flexibility, and security to a multifaceted business and bolsters its growth and role in the global pharmaceutical supply chain.

One platform, many options

“With the ONTAP data management software, we have not only optimized storage management and made it more flexible but also raised data protection to a new level with the possibilities of NetApp Cloud Backup. Thus, the customer is ideally equipped to meet current and future business needs.”

Jens Christian Helm
Sales Representative, PROFI AG

Finding a future-proof storage formula

This customer’s business is 100% driven by data, compliance, and growth. Finding the right formula for active ingredients requires myriad test rows, with data constantly captured, stored, analyzed, documented, and archived.

All data must be highly available and secure. Rerunning tests or analyses because of irreversibly lost data can put delivery agreements at risk and breach compliance rules while costing time, money, and reputation.

However, living up to high standards with growing data and security needs was cumbersome in an IT environment with fragmented data storage. The SAN storage was complex and as inflexible to handle as the hard disks on the Windows servers. It was time for a new recipe to store, protect, and secure data.

The customer teamed with NetApp partner PROFI AG. Together they set the scene:

- Consolidate storage and data
- Improve data protection and security
- Use cloud wherever possible and useful

One platform for all data everywhere

NetApp ONTAP systems were the choice for data storage. They combine file and block data on one platform under one management umbrella—ideal for the customer’s complex environment. More than 20 operating systems, virtualization, databases from MariaDB to Oracle, file services, and computing clusters with high graphics power keep applications, algorithms, and scripts running.

Two NetApp AFF A300 systems replaced the SAN storage at the customer’s headquarters and all Windows file servers. Consolidating storage and data at a remote site was a perfect job for NetApp ONTAP Select. This ONTAP version runs at full functionality as software-defined storage on a standard server.

The customer and PROFI AG jointly implemented the storage and migrated the VMware environment with 175 machines, workloads, and 150TB of data. 10 gigabit connections and 40 gigabit switches amplify the network performance and make sure that the new flash power arrives at the high-speed servers and workplaces of 250 users.

Safety first—on premises and in the cloud

Robust hardware and data replication boosted the availability of business-critical file data and applications significantly. But that was only the first step.

“For the customer, it would be disastrous if data issues led to repeating test rows. Therefore, our protection concept anticipates all eventualities and combines backup with security on premises and in the cloud to prevent data loss and avert cyber risks. NetApp ONTAP leaves nothing to be desired,” said Stephan Becker, NetApp system engineer at PROFI AG.

Over 30 ONTAP features help to improve data confidentiality, integrity, availability, and security. One ONTAP pillar is NetApp Snapshot™ technology, the core of an ecosystem for high availability and disaster-tolerant data protection.



In the customer's data center, Snapshot copies protect the VMware environment running in SAN mode on ONTAP storage. Veeam software manages the backups, which are stored locally and get replicated to a FAS2720 system. Also, the file services backup is based on Snapshot copies but is kept on Azure Blob Storage using NetApp Cloud Backup.

On premises or from the cloud, Snapshot-based restores and recoveries can be done quickly. Point-in-time copies created by ONTAP take only a few seconds and require hardly any space. As a result, the customer was able to increase backup frequency from daily to hourly. And the recovery point objective dropped to 60 minutes.

NetApp SnapLock® delivers WORM protection for data that needs to be audit-proof. In addition, ProLion CryptoSpike protects WORM volumes from malware encryption. Designed for ONTAP storage, CryptoSpike monitors user access to files in real time and eliminates detected threats automatically and rule based.

"We are very pleased that, together with our long-standing Platinum Partner PROFi AG, we have once again been able to provide a solution that is optimally tailored to the customer's needs in order to optimize his business processes," said Christian Wagner, senior partner manager at NetApp.

Everything under control in the data fabric

For the customer's two admins, the situation has eased considerably. In their data fabric based on NetApp solutions, data operations run smoothly along the entire process chain, from lab data acquisition to audit-proof archiving.

No matter where data lives throughout the data fabric, consistent functions and standardized application equalize and simplify management. Having just one GUI makes administrating all data and data services low effort. The daily storage business came down to a minimum.

Flexibility for today and tomorrow

Today, the IT team can execute business needs fast and flexibly. Setting up and protecting VMware virtual machines is easier than ever, thanks to tight integration with ONTAP storage. Storage is allocated automatically or on demand. The team can support new projects in a way that best serves their purpose. With data from sample analytics and processes being securely available, the planned laboratory information management system will meet the expectations to improve lab productivity and efficiency with a digital backbone.

As a trusted advisor, PROFi AG discusses next steps with the customer. On the agenda are containers instead of VMs, more automation, and adjusting data security and archiving. And they are considering a disaster recovery scenario by adding a second data center and splitting up the two AFF systems. In principle, the customer would love to move more workloads to the cloud and explore the use of backup data in the cloud.

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Why NetApp ONTAP for data security?

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NetApp products

2 AFF A300 storage

FAS2720 storage

ONTAP Select

[Cloud Backup Service](#)

SnapLock

SnapMirror

Snapshot

NetApp ecosystem

ProLion

Veeam

VMware



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About NetApp

In a world full of generalists, NetApp is a specialist. We're focused on one thing, helping your business get the most out of your data. NetApp brings the enterprise-grade data services you rely on into the cloud, and the simple flexibility of cloud into the data center. Our industry-leading solutions work across diverse customer environments and the world's biggest public clouds.

As a cloud-led, data-centric software company, only NetApp can help build your unique data fabric, simplify and connect your cloud, and securely deliver the right data, services and applications to the right people—anytime, anywhere. To learn more, visit www.netapp.com



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