

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

GK Software enables retailers to optimize data management



NetApp ONTAP systems store and protect the data of a global software business.

From cashier systems to personalized shopping with smartphones, GK Software improves the retail experience. Their software solutions enable modern shopping and help retailers optimize processes, improve customer relationships, and cut costs. GK trusts NetApp® storage and security solutions and the expertise of NetApp Prestige Partner Logicalis to manage their data and power retail innovation.

**500,000+ retail
systems
60+ countries**

“NetApp flash with NVMe is incredibly fast. It speeds up software-build processes and allows for more tests. This contributes to the software quality and benefits our business expansion.”

**David Denner
Director of IT Infrastructure, GK Group IT Solutions**

Delivering modern shopping experiences

The retail sector is under increased pressure to innovate due to continuously evolving consumer expectations. GK Software helps retailers meet these expectations with flexible technology and customizable solutions. Today, GK has over 500,000 retail and payment installations across more than 60 countries.

The company's open full-service platform GK Cloud4Retail enables omnichannel processes and offers retailers the latest marketing and sales tools, such as real-time mobile merchandise management, AI-tuned personalization, dynamic pricing, and POS solutions for smart stores.

NetApp sets the benchmark for reliability

GK's solutions run on site or as a cloud service delivered by SAP and public clouds. Products are developed within GK's private cloud, with NetApp as a central technology. All data, from source code and test files to VMware and CIFS file services, depend on it. Wherever software is programmed or adapted, NetApp ONTAP® storage is on site.

“NetApp is our go-to for storage. Other vendors couldn't keep up with this kind of 'set-and-forget' capability. The systems are highly robust and reliable. This makes them also great for sites with little IT know-how,” said David Denner, Director of IT Infrastructure at the internal service provider GK Group IT Solutions.

To provide more than 1,200 employees with fast and secure data services, IT counts on flexible and proven technology from NetApp coupled with VMware. Storage can be available on the fly or allocated from VMware for development environments or for new virtual machines.

Enabling secure business continuity

GK leverages NetApp SnapVault® feature and Snapshot™ copies for file backups and fast restores on all systems. NetApp SnapMirror® software replicates all data to Germany, where it's centrally backed up to disk and tape. Only VMware backups require third-party software. Local storage and backup from NetApp work nondisruptively to create a seamless data fabric.

Partnering to drive improved development agility

As some of the company's storage systems in Germany, the Czech Republic, and the United States became full or reached end of support, system performance and capacity had to be reassessed. Because of the scope of the project, the company sought the expertise of Logicalis to help them increase storage capacity and improve performance. Logicalis used NetApp Active IQ® Digital Advisor to gain insight into the systems. Based on monitoring data and the software's AI capabilities, they found the right solution to work in concert with GK's existing IT infrastructure.

In Schöneck, Germany, Logicalis worked with GK to optimize a 6-node cluster with NetApp AFF storage systems for VMware and NetApp FAS systems for files and central backup. Adding more SSD and SAS shelves, together with new cluster switches, solved the company's capacity issues and improved performance. At two Czech and U.S. sites, all-flash storage replaced FAS storage. In Pilsen, a 4-node all-flash cluster was built from existing and new AFF storage. GK in Raleigh, North Carolina, received an entry-level system implemented by Logicalis USA. With better performance and capacity, development could take off again.

According to Denner, “NetApp flash with NVMe is incredibly fast. It speeds up software-build processes and allows for more tests. This contributes to the software quality and benefits our business expansion.”

GK is growing its software and services and expanding in the Asia-Pacific region. Their consulting, support, and development teams are busy with new clients and existing customers who want to adopt new tools or switch to GK Cloud4Retail.

Flash storage helps GK manage growth and increase efficiency with improved security and nondisruptive operations. Now, IT can move each volume in the clusters on demand, making maintenance jobs and updates fast and easy. Switching to SSD storage enables GK Software to store more data in less capacity while reducing energy consumption.

“Logicalis was a great partner and helped us blend price and performance optimally. Due to their planning and expertise, the implementation also ran smoothly in the United States,” Denner said.

Setting the standard for future IT innovation

Optimization remains top of mind for GK. Logicalis is currently looking into improving the company’s backup design. In future updates, the NetApp Keystone® storage-as-a-service offering can replace hardware purchases. GK can leverage their modern NetApp estate to solve a variety of data challenges around confidentiality, integrity, availability, and security without the need for third-party point products.

“NetApp is a big player in the data storage market. The systems are easy to maintain and fit seamlessly into our IT. In the end, NetApp storage does what it’s supposed to do: It simply works,” Denner said.



Why NetApp for flash storage?

[Learn more](#)

NetApp products

AFF storage systems

FAS system

Active IQ

SnapMirror

Snapshot

SnapVault

NetApp ecosystem

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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