

CASE STUDY

Wenatchee Valley College



"I selected Gridstore because I can get a scalable and reliable scale-out NAS system that provides me with enterprise features, ease of management and minimal upfront capital investment, so I don't have to overprovision and pay for my future storage requirements today."

Steve Garcia,
Systems and Security Administrator,
Wenatchee Valley College

ORGANIZATION

Wenatchee Valley College

INDUSTRY

Higher Education

IT ENVIRONMENT

Providing file storage to 350 administrators and 2,500 students across 2 campuses

CHALLENGE

- Multiple siloed servers
- Management issues due to patch requirements
- No scale-out capabilities
- File and application conflict

SOLUTION

- Gridstore 5-1TB nodes growing to 20TB node system in 2011

BENEFITS

- Affordable scale-out NAS
- Consolidation of file servers
- Reduced management complexity
- Re-purpose existing IT assets

Wenatchee Valley College Uses Gridstore to Consolidate Multiple Storage Silos Into a Single Scale-Out NAS Storage Solution

CUSTOMER OVERVIEW:

Wenatchee Valley College was founded in 1939 to enrich North Central Washington by serving educational and cultural needs of communities and residents throughout a 10,000 square mile area. Wenatchee Valley College has two campuses with multiple departments that provide high-quality liberal arts, professional/technical, basic skills and continuing education for students of diverse ethnic and economic backgrounds.

BUSINESS CHALLENGE:

Wenatchee Valley College provides IT services for more than 350 staff and administrators as well as 2,500 active students. They keep over 4,000 user accounts in their active directory to support their current and returning students. With a mix of diverse application requirements as well as a growing need to store video lectures, their existing storage systems were unable to meet their growing data storage needs.

Prior to implementing the Gridstore solution, Wenatchee had been using its high performance servers to provide storage for their two campuses and multiple departments. Since the servers were not connected in a shared environment and were spread throughout their campuses, the management of this siloed storage environment had become very time consuming and inefficient.

The college needed to find an affordable solution that would allow them to provide a centralized storage network that would easily scale out as their requirements grow. The ultimate goal was to re-allocate their existing servers to meet growth application requirements.

"I didn't need more CPU power," said Steve Garcia, systems and security administrator, Wenatchee Valley College, "I needed a networked storage system that could easily and cost-effectively scale as our needs expand."



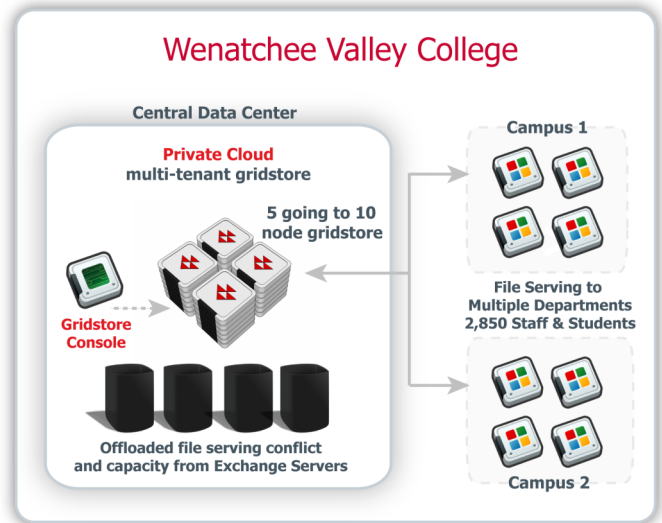
SOLUTION:

To solve its storage challenges, Wenatchee Valley College standardized on Gridstore to transform its siloed DAS storage into a comprehensive, enterprise-class scale-out NAS storage solution. The initial deployment includes a 5-1TB node system with expected growth to 20TBs by the end of the year.

The Gridstore system allows the college to consolidate file sharing from multiple servers into a single pool of highly reliable storage with the ability to incrementally grow on the fly. This was a big benefit to the college since they don't have to incur any upfront costs of over-provisioning their storage resources, something that was required by other storage vendors they considered.

RESULTS:

Using the Gridstore solution, the school now has a powerful scale-out NAS storage infrastructure that has allowed them to consolidate their file servers while eliminating their server sprawl, multiple single points of failure and the management challenges that were associated with their older siloed servers.



Wenatchee has achieved their goal of re-purposing their existing servers to provide resources for other purposes thereby reducing the need for further IT expenditures. Now the college can provide storage for their growing library of video lectures and easily expand their storage capacity on the fly, as needed.

After evaluating multiple options at significantly higher prices, Wenatchee Valley College selected Gridstore because it was the only solution they found that provided the performance and reliability of an enterprise-class NAS storage solution at a price they wanted to pay. With Gridstore's "Pay as you Grow" scalability and simplicity of management, the decision was easy.

"The system's combination of scalability and economies of scale are a very compelling value proposition," said Garcia. **"It's ideal for anyone who wants a Scale-out NAS storage solution that lets you add capacity on the fly with no performance or management headaches to worry about."**



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