

\$2.9 Billion Specialty Chemicals Leader Accelerates Mission-Critical Systems 50-75% while Bolstering DR



ZEON CASE STUDY

ZEON

Manufacturing
www.zeonchemicals.com

Challenge

When ZEON planned a DR location in Texas, IT leader shied away from the incumbent storage solution because of latency in business-critical applications.

Results

- 50-75% lower latency on mission-critical applications
- 75% less storage management time
- Higher performance and capacity for a lower TCO
- VM creation in less time
- 2.5 to 1 capacity

“Before, SAP was slow enough that they couldn’t get their work done. Now we have no hang-ups with getting shipments out and have seen a 50-75% lower latency in business-critical applications.”

Jerry Divino
Infrastructure Manager

Company Challenge

Latency That Threatens Shipping

A world leader in specialty elastomers, polymers, and chemicals, ZEON reports annual global sales of more than U.S. \$2.9 billion. Major automotive and natural gas operators rely on ZEON to produce belts and other parts.

The U.S. operations for the Japanese-owned company reside in Kentucky, with two other plants and one warehouse in the U.S. Jerry Divino, Infrastructure Manager, focuses on maintaining uptime to ensure that data remains accessible to all locations around the clock and that team members can ship to customers on time. If they can’t access SAP, or the program experiences lags, products can’t go out.

When ZEON planned to add disaster recovery at a plant in Texas, Divino knew he wanted to take a different approach to storage. The company had used Dell EMC VNX at its production facilities, but experienced latency that slowed SAP.

Results

VDI Performance on Par with Desktops

Divino compared solutions from Cisco HyperFlex, Dell EMC VxRail, Nutanix and Datrium. He narrowed the search by ruling out those that seemed too complicated to manage.

“For all the hyperconverged (HCI) solutions we looked at, we would need a minimum of three nodes, help from professional services and more staff to manage them,” he said. “They were so complicated that we would need a special skillset – and we didn’t have the staff for that.” As for traditional storage, Divino feared array bottlenecks and latency because traffic must traverse the network to reach servers.

By contrast, Datrium’s Automatrix platform addressed all those issues, offering data storage right on the host. But what really sold Divino was performance in a proof of concept. “With SSD drives closer to the host, users were getting as good of an experience with virtual desktops as they would with real desktops,” he said. “The VMs now feel like desktops.”

ZEON deployed Datrium DVX at the Texas DR site, which mimics the primary location with a 10G network. They run three hosts for virtual servers and three for virtual desktops within a single DVX.

“It’s much easier for us to recover with Datrium than it would have been with HCI, so we minimize the impact of outages on the business.”

Jerry Divino
Infrastructure Manager

Team members at the Texas location immediately noticed performance gains in SAP, which they rely on for customer shipments. “Before, SAP was slow enough that they couldn’t get their work done,” Divino said. “Now we have no hang-ups with getting shipments out and have seen a 50-75% lower latency in business-critical applications.”

Additionally, ZEON gets data reduction of about 2.5 to 1 on Datrium, thanks to always-on deduplication and compression.

75% Less Storage Management

From the start, Datrium delivered on the promise of simpler management. On migration day at the DR site, the team set up the Datrium system and began transferring data within half a day. Day-to-day management was likewise easier. “For HCI, we would have needed to hire a network storage and compute person,” Divino said. “With Datrium, anyone on the team can manage storage with no specific expertise needed.”

Instead, ZEON team members switched to managing storage and the virtual infrastructure via a single pane of glass in vCenter. With one storage pool, they eliminated the need to spin up LUNs. By Divino’s estimates, they reduced storage management time by at least 75%. Likewise, they can create VMs much faster.

Quicker Recovery When It Matters Most

ZEON takes advantage of Datrium’s autonomous data services at the DR site, fortifying the company’s data protection strategy. Datrium DVX snapshots are near instantaneous and have no impact on running applications.

ZEON ultimately gained higher performance for a lower cost of ownership, when taking into account reduced storage management and capacity gains. Most importantly, Datrium has enabled ZEON to improve daily reliability and performance while ensuring that it’s protected in the event of a disaster.

“It’s much easier for us to recover with Datrium than it would have been with HCI, so we minimize the impact of outages on the business,” Divino said.

About ZEON

ZEON is a world leader in specialty elastomers, polymers, and specialty chemicals. The company ranks as one of the top producers of polymers in the world, operating a global network of plants in Asia and North America, and research and development laboratories in the United States, Japan, China, and Singapore. With almost 70 years in business and consolidated sales of over U.S. \$2.9 billion, ZEON has both the experience and the expertise in C4 and C5 chemistry to offer a wide range of products. Zeon Corporation employs over 3,300 people worldwide, with global headquarters in Tokyo and regional headquarters in the United States, Singapore, and Germany.

Learn more about Datrium at www.datrium.com.

