



Intuition Improves Financial Transaction Processing with 10x Faster Performance and 6x Faster Recovery

INTUITION CASE STUDY



Financial Services
www.intuitionllc.com

Challenge

Waning capacity and sluggish performance, as well as a desire to move off tape backup, led the company to look for new solutions.

Results

- 10x better performance
- 3:1 data reduction
- 95% less storage
- 6x faster RTO
- A more economical DR strategy

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Daryl Dressler
Solutions Architect

Company Challenge

Staying Ahead of Latency and Timeouts

Based in Jacksonville, FL, the Intuition LLC portfolio of businesses provides solutions for jurisdictions, government entities, private industries and individuals through four unique entities:

- An online bill payment platform (Bill2Pay)
- Prepaid college savings plans (Intuition College Savings Solutions)
- Regulatory compliance technology (Veritec solutions)
- Savings plans for individuals with disabilities (Intuition Able Solutions)

In a 24/7 transaction-based, online environment, the IT team at Intuition measures success in uptime and performance. And as the company has virtualized nearly all desktops, maintaining performance has become ever-more top of mind.

When the company's Dell EqualLogic storage began running out of space, processes stretched out longer than normal or would time out. Latency could last from 15-25ms, which kicked off frequent alerts. Even more frustrating, the team couldn't pinpoint where the problem was.

"We had to get a handle on performance issues before they began impacting users," said Daryl Dressler, Solutions Architect.

With disaster recovery required for audit compliance, the team also needed a viable strategy for moving off tape backups and expediting recovery times.

Results

10x Better Performance

Intuition evaluated NetApp, Nutanix, Dell Compellent, Tegile, PernixData, Pure Storage and Datrium, but only moved forward with the latter. Datrium's Automatrix platform offered the speed advantages of data storage right on the host.

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Daryl Dressler
Solutions Architect

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In a proof of concept, the company saw plenty of IOPs to handle anything it could throw at it and latency down to 2ms, even across VMs. In fact, Datrium easily bore IOPs from a SQL monitoring server – twice what the previous Dell storage could handle. With three Datrium DVX nodes, the team has eliminated the frequent alerts due to performance, even without turning on Datrium’s Insane Mode. As for capacity, with Datrium’s deduplication and compression, the company gained a 3:1 ratio of effective to physical storage.

‘It Can’t Be This Easy’

Previously, Dressler and the team spent considerable time managing LUNs. Creating a new VM required multiple steps and 1-2 hours.

Intuition consolidated storage to a single pool in Datrium, eliminating the need to spin up or manage LUNs. They also centralized storage and VM management right in vCenter. As a result, creating a new VM now takes minutes, about one-sixth the time as before. What’s more, day-to-day management has dropped by probably 95%.

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6x Faster Data Recovery

Given its financial industry presence, Intuition has set an exceptionally long retention period – 20-plus years for some data. Until recently, the company backed up data exclusively to tape, which they moved offsite each month.

With Automatrix Elastic Replication, Intuition has started transitioning away from tape, instead replicating between three Datrium DVX systems across two physical data centers. Within what they call a PCI zone for compliance purposes, those devices are physically separated from the rest of the data. Data recovery times for DR compliance have dropped from 1-2 hours down to 15 minutes – 6x faster on average.

By default, Datrium replication requires no configuration. “You just make a clone and turn it on. It’s really fantastic,” Dressler said. Nor does the team have to worry about replication affecting workloads since all data is cached locally and there’s virtually no performance overhead on the I/O workload. As the company replicates more of its data to Datrium, Dressler expects to transition away from tape completely and eliminate the costs associated with tape. Ultimately, they gain the capacity, performance, and business continuity they need for less manpower and cost.

About Intuition LLC

The Intuition portfolio of businesses has been providing solutions for jurisdictions, government entities and private industries for more than 25 years. The common thread that ties its companies together is a dedication to providing clients with the highest quality solutions, allowing them to realize cost savings and increased efficiencies for their core business activities.

Learn more about Datrium www.datrium.com

