A Leading Automotive Company Cuts Cost and Risk for Workload Migrations over WAN

Executive Summary

INDUSTRY DESCRIPTION

This automotive company designs, manufactures and supports a wide variety of components and systems for manufacturers of commercial and private vehicles globally.

BUSINESS SITUATION

Following corporate acquisitions, the company needed to rationalize and simplify its IT infrastructure. Hosting and managing critical business applications in a large number of international locations was costly, risky and inefficient.

THE NETIQ DIFFERENCE

Using PlateSpin® Migrate from NetIQ, the company migrated workloads from VMware to Microsoft Hyper-V in automated, low-risk migrations that minimized downtime and cost. To move larger workloads across unreliable and low-bandwidth networks, the company used the staged migration capability of PlateSpin Migrate.

NETIQ PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

PlateSpin® Migrate



With a manufacturing and design presence in multiple countries across three continents, this automotive company supplies leading vehicle manufacturers with a wide variety of components. Following a number of corporate acquisitions, the company had become reliant on multiple data centers to support critical applications for different parts of the business. Aiming to reduce costs and centralize its IT expertise, the company decided on a policy of consolidation to shared regional data centers.

In its global IT infrastructure, the company had a mixture of physical and virtual servers, the latter based on VMware. For technical and financial reasons, the company wanted to centralize everything to virtual Windows servers on Microsoft Hyper-V.

With limited bandwidth available on its WAN, and unreliable connections in some geographies, performing exclusively WAN-based migrations would have been time-consuming and required extensive production downtime.

Equally, the company could not afford long periods of downtime, so a "lift-and-shift" migration of the physical hardware was also not an option.

The Solution

The automotive company chose PlateSpin® Migrate from NetIQ to power its ambitious global data-center consolidation project.

PlateSpin Migrate decouples workloads from their host infrastructures, making it fast and simple to move them from physical to virtual, virtual to virtual, or virtual back to physical again. It supports a large number of source and target environments, including physical workloads to Hyper-V and VMware virtual machines to Hyper-V.

A spokesperson for the automotive company said: "PlateSpin Migrate gives us the built-in support we need for Hyper-V migrations, and the commercial model suits our needs perfectly. When we buy a license for a workload, that license is perpetual: we can migrate to

"The staged migration capability of PlateSpin Migrate enabled us to minimize disruption to the source production systems."

Spokesperson,
Leading automotive company

and from physical and virtual resources with no restrictions. For some other tools we considered, each migration would incur an additional fee."

While PlateSpin Migrate is highly tolerant of low-speed and unreliable WAN connections, the automotive company decided to accelerate the migration by taking advantage of the NetIQ solution's staged migration capability.

For those migrations, the approach was as follows. The company performed an initial image capture (physical to image or virtual to image) for each physical or VMware virtual machine, and physically shipped them to the relevant new regional data center. Here, PlateSpin Migrate deployed the images as Hyper-V virtual machines (image to virtual), and the company tested them to confirm that everything was working as expected.

In the meantime, the applications continued to run as usual on the source infrastructure.

When the testing was complete, the automotive company used the Server Sync functionality of PlateSpin Migrate to capture the interim changes that had taken place on the source systems and apply them to the virtual environments on the target infrastructure, using far less time and bandwidth than copying the entire workload.

"PlateSpin Migrate enabled us to apply a hybrid approach to migration," said the spokesperson. "We were able to do the 'heavy lifting' as a local imaging job, move the images to the new data center, build and test the target Hyper-V infrastructure, then copy any changes or updates over the WAN before switching production to the new infrastructure."

The Results

Efficient, Low-Impact Migration

To date, the automotive company has successfully completed more than 1,000 server migrations using PlateSpin Migrate, and is on track to complete its global data-center consolidation program within the planned timeframe.

The NetIQ solution has helped the company to significantly reduce potential disruption during migration.

The spokesperson explained: "The staged migration capability of PlateSpin Migrate enabled us to minimize disruption to the source production systems.

"We simply took the initial image, built and tested the target environment in our regional data center, then applied incremental updates to the initial image over the WAN. Without this capability, each migration would have required significant downtime, with a major impact on business users."

Time and Cost Savings

With built-in automated testing during the virtualization process, PlateSpin Migrate minimizes the time and effort required for technicians. It also provides automated migration of up to 40 servers concurrently, making it easier to tackle large migrations without over-stretching IT staff resources.

"PlateSpin Migrate is playing a vital role in helping us simplify and rationalize our IT infrastructure, ensuring that we can virtualize and centralize our servers quickly, efficiently and at low cost," said the spokesperson.

Learn more today by contacting your NetIQ partner or a local NetIQ sales representative, or by visiting www.netiq.com for contact information in your area.

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