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APS Bank Goes from Reactive to Proactive with SolarWinds® Storage Manager

APS Bank is a private bank based in Malta that offers a range of personal banking services including savings accounts, home and personal loans, and services for corporate customers.

With over 200 employees across nine locations in Malta and Gozo, the IT Operations team at APS bank monitors 3 enterprise storages arrays namely a HP® EVA4400, a HP EVA4100 and an IBM® DS3524 (85TB of RAW data in all) together with 6 Brocade® switches and 21 servers.

SolarWinds: A Life Saver for Managing and Troubleshooting Storage Issues

Josef Cilia from the IT Operations team at APS bank says since the time he deployed SolarWinds Storage Manager , he's had better visibility into the health and performance of his storage arrays and the entire SAN environment. Now he can identify bottlenecks before they become major issues.

Soon after implementing Storage Manager, APS Bank were able to avert 2 critical issues in advance by proactively diagnosing them using Storage Manager. Without it, this situation could have ended in a service performance issue or outage.

"After installing Storage Manager," said Josef, "I can confidently say that I have better peace of mind regarding my storage environment."

A few of the many use case where Josef and his team have benefitted by using Storage Manager include:

CLIENT STATISTICS

- **3 enterprise storage arrays**
- **6 switches**
- **21 servers**

- **Intuitive Dashboards and Performance Data**: Storage Manager has allowed Josef to drill down on every single LUN on the storage arrays, disk, and disk groups. Now Josef can view detailed information such as total IOs/sec, read/write IOs, MB written/sec, and read/write latencies. All this data is displayed on graphical charts and intuitive online dashboards, making storage performance monitoring much easier.

  Josef added, "I've never had such a visible picture where I can view the load on my storage controllers. It is helpful when it comes to viewing the top 10 LUNs by total IOPs, top 10 LUNs by total latency, top 10 LUNs by reads, top 10 LUNs by writes."

"After installing Storage Manager, I can confidently say that I have better peace of mind regarding my storage environment," said Josef Cilia, IT Operations.

"Now I'm able to forecast my storage, be more proactive before problems arise, have better visibility of all my storage and SAN performance on a single screen, and much more…" said Josef Cilia.

• **Holistic Storage Fabric Monitoring**: APS bank is now monitoring their switches as a whole or individually, port by port. Performance metrics on the board temperature, fan status, and power supplies status have brought additional visibility into the storage hardware.
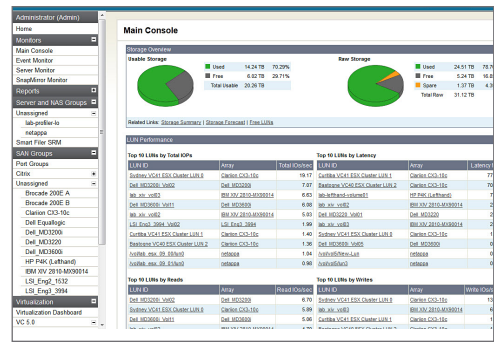
Cilia has been able to easily customise alerts in Storage Manager to trigger an email when a port goes offline or when there are errors/sec generated on ports.

• **Visibility into Servers and Storage Files**: Storage Manager has provided detailed information on the performance of CPUs, disks, memory, and the network, with the files stored on the storage side. This has allowed Josef to see which files are large and are using more storage; which files are orphaned and can be removed from the storage; duplicate files; and MP3s, images, DB files and many others.

APS runs scheduled monthly reports to extract such information from their storage to be presented to management. Josef noted, "Storage Manager reports are very easy to extract in very little time. In the past, I had to spend about three hours to issue those reports." With reporting and notifications, he's been able to save considerable time and effort fire-fighting problems. Now he's free to be proactive in identifying and resolving issues.

To APS Bank,Storage Manager is a life-saver in terms of saving time, money, and effort when monitoring and managing their heterogeneous SAN environment. Josef said, "Now I'm able to forecast my storage, be more proactive before problems arise, have better visibility of all my storage and SAN performance on a single screen, and much more..."

IT Management
Inspired by You.

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