OPTIO
a data strategy company

HIGHER EDUCATION

Desired outcomes:

- Server consolidation
- Equipment upgrades
- Faster Performance
- Virtualized environment
- Easier Management
- Network upgrades

Case Study: Education

Optio Data was able to meet the customer's goals with a solution that consolidated their environment and upgraded their existing and new hardware.

Technologies used in the solution

- VMware
- Dell Blade Servers

Problem and Action Taken

A public university based in Michigan, was looking to further virtualize and update their existing hardware. Most of their infrastructure was largely virtualized, but their primary VMware cluster was running on aging systems, and performance and hardware issues were beginning to impact services.

As an initial step, Optio Data performed a full assessment of the university's environment and delivered a detailed report and list of recommendations to meet the customer's goals of improved performance, increased compute capacity, and easier management at an affordable price. This recommendation called for a VMware cluster upgrade in which memory would be added to existing hardware and new hardware would be purchased in order to create separate clusters. This would allow application workloads to be tiered for easier management and capacity gains. In addition to the VMware cluster upgrade, Optio Data also implemented a full storage area network redesign, changing the university's Fibre Channel pass-thru's to full functioning Fibre Channel switches in their blade chassis to cut down on cabling and improve performance. The combination of implementing cluster upgrades and a network redesign allowed the university to meet their performance and growth requirements and, by reusing and upgrading existing hardware where possible, allowed them to meet these goals more cost effectively.

Customer Result

The university went from 15% of their environment being virtualized to well over 50%. They also consolidated servers and upgraded their equipment, which resulted in faster performance and energy levels being cut by over 50%.