

# WHY CUSTOMERS CHOOSE UNITY XT HYBRID STORAGE FOR GENERAL PURPOSE VIRTUALIZED WORKLOADS



Unity XT arrays represent the ultimate in modern hybrid storage for the midrange market. These systems are designed for performance, optimized for efficiency, and built for a multi-cloud world. They also support digital transformation enabling businesses to unlock the full potential of their data capital – easily and fast. Unity XT Hybrid Arrays provide the performance, efficiency, enterprise-class software, and virtualization integrations required for running a wide range of virtualized applications.

## 1 | Designed for performance

Unity XT Hybrid Storage Arrays deliver impressive performance when running virtualized workloads including databases, VDI and custom applications. These modern dual-active controller systems implement linear multicore scaling and inline data reduction inside all-flash pools for block and file. With the latest dual-socket Intel processors, more cores and memory, Unity XT Hybrid arrays, have the power to run applications, process inline data reduction (all-flash pools) and deliver unified data services - simultaneously.

## 2 | Optimized for efficiency

Unity XT Hybrid Storage Arrays start in a sleek 2U form factor with a modern architecture designed to deliver the performance of flash with the cost effectiveness of disk. The hybrid design includes linear multicore scaling, inline data reduction with zero detect in all-flash pools, zero impact SSD drive firmware-based garbage collection, write coalescing minimizing IO, smart tuning, intelligent SSD wear leveling, and high capacity 12TB NL-SAS HDDs. Unity XT Hybrid arrays provide 5-9's availability while taking advantage of FAST Cache (SSD Read Cache) with the ability to dynamically shrink or expand it online for improved performance and FAST VP for policy-based auto-tiering across multiple performance/capacity tiers for improved efficiency.

## 3 | Unmatched simplicity

Unity XT represents the ultimate in midrange storage simplicity. These systems are simple to setup enabling installation in just a few minutes and in 15 minutes you're configured to go. Unity XT uses less power, less footprint and less cables than VNX systems. Each Unity XT array is managed from the intuitive HTML5 Unisphere™ interface with access to multiple VMware and Microsoft integrations and simple service/support features through a self-service portal within Unisphere. If you're an IT generalist, you'll really like Unity XT's overall simplicity and ability to resolve issues faster. Additionally, Unisphere includes simplified data migration with built-in capabilities to easily and non-disruptively move file and block data from VNX, legacy Unity and 3rd party systems to Unity XT.

## 4 | All-inclusive software

Unity XT Hybrid storage arrays include all the software you need to store, manage, and protect your data at no additional cost making it easy to purchase and own. Unity XT's comprehensive software portfolio includes Unisphere Management Suite (HTML5), inline data reduction with zero detect for all flash pools, FAST Cache and FAST VP, unified multi-protocols, unified snapshots and thin clones with Dell EMC AppSync integration, data at rest encryption, unified synch/asynch remote replication and snapshot replication, Metrosync Manager for file, QoS, IP multi-tenancy, File Level Retention and more.

# TOP REASONS

## 5 | Built for multi-cloud

Unity XT Hybrid Flash Arrays support multiple cloud deployment options including Validated Designs with VMware Cloud Foundation on AWS; Cloud Tiering Appliance for expanding block/file data to the cloud; Unity Cloud Edition with HA on VMware Cloud Foundation for consuming SAN/NAS services in AWS clouds; Multi-cloud Data Services enabled by Faction for Unity XT providing access to DRaaS and multi-cloud workload migration services. Also, Cloud Data Insights enables full access to CloudIQ, a cloud-based storage analytics application that's included at no cost with Unity XT arrays. It provides proactive monitoring of system health, performance, capacity, configurations, and on-array data protection metrics with anomaly detection.

## 6 | Metro node appliance

Metro node is a hardware add-on feature for Unity XT that provides true active-active synchronous replication over metro distances. In addition, metro node supports data mobility to non-disruptively relocate workloads to enable storage technology refresh without application downtime. Metro node is also the only solution available that provides true active-active configurations by allowing simultaneous writes at both sites and supports Recovery Point Objective (RPO) and Recover Time Objective (RTO) equal to zero downtime.

## 7 | Scalable file system

Unity XT Hybrid storage supports enterprise and transactional NAS use cases with a robust 256TBu file system. The UFS64 file system includes up to 256 independent VMDK clones, 16 thin clones, space efficient snapshots with a simple space reclaim and low IO impact, file system shrink that can reclaim free blocks, simplified Quotas for User, Tree and Group Quotas, and in-memory log replay for faster and non-disruptive failovers. Each array provides synchronous and asynchronous file replication and supports Metrosync Manager to monitor both sides of the synchronous replication, detect outages and automatically fail over the synchronized NAS Server(s) and constituent filesystems and configurations from the source to target.

## 8 | Software-defined storage

Unity XT Virtual Software Appliance with HA (Dell EMC UnityVSA™) delivers the Unity XT operating environment as software-defined storage using the same management interface for deploying on a VMware ESXi server. Users can create shared storage with NAS and iSCSI SAN protocols and data services compatible with hardware platforms and deploy on industry-standard server hardware. With the flexibility of software-defined storage, users can quickly and easily deploy Dell EMC UnityVSA software-defined storage and fully supported capacity licenses up to 350TB for a variety of uses including ROBO, test and development and embedded applications, while maintaining full compatibility with their Unity XT platforms.

## 9 | Comprehensive data protection

Unity XT storage arrays advance the state of data protection with a range of features that are not only comprehensive but also included at no extra charge. The list of Unity XT data protection capabilities is extensive including unified snapshots with support for differentials, refresh, and vVol snaps; unified synch/asynch remote replication with support for throttling, interface pairing, snapshot replication and full copy avoidance; data-at-rest encryption (D@RE) to protect data without requiring special drives and multiple key manager support enabling centralized security administration; file-level retention (FLR) for protecting files from modification or deletion ensuring data integrity; and a limited number of RecoverPoint Basic licenses enabling continuous data protection and a zero RPO for your most critical application data.

## 10 | DevOps integrations

Containers are fast becoming the new software architecture paradigm and Kubernetes has emerged as a popular Container Orchestration platform choice. Dell Technologies is at the forefront of developing solutions that enable customers to efficiently run containerized workloads while leveraging powerful storage integrations for DevOps workflows. Unity XT now supports the Container Storage Interface (CSI) plugin to run Kubernetes workloads. Automation is a major theme in IT Procurement discussions. The good thing is Automation no longer means programming-intensive and hard-to-maintain scripting. Tools like VMware vRealize Orchestrator (vRO) provides a drag and drop environment to quickly automate infrastructure operations and service delivery tasks. Unity XT supports vRO plugin enabling customers to automate end to end workflows spanning the entire infrastructure stack.