Top Reasons Why Customers Choose Dell Unity XT Hybrid Flash Arrays

Unity XT Hybrid Flash Arrays (HFAs) are compelling storage solutions for small-to-medium enterprises running general purpose workloads that don't demand the speed and sub-millisecond latencies of All-Flash/NVMe. These platforms provide users with a unique combination of simplified management, all-inclusive innovative software and hybrid cloud integrations without compromising affordability

1 | Innovative software-based performance

The versatile Unity XT HFAs deliver impressive performance for general purpose workloads that don't require All-Flash speed or low latency. The Unity XT HFA design is supported by several software-based performance features but none more critical to deliver the I/O speed users expect than the automated and policy-based FAST Cache (SSD Read Cache) performance software with support for dynamic online SSD shrink and expand capabilities.

2 | Innovative software-based efficiency

Unity XT HFAs are highly optimized for efficiency across all aspects of the architecture including management, data services and software-based integrations with IT operations such as DevOps. Unity XT HFAs ability to drive efficiency starts with inline data reduction software allowing users to reduce opex and increase utilization. This efficiency capability is amplified with automated and policy-based FAST VP (Fully Automated Storage Tiering for Virtual Pools) software solution that dynamically matches storage requirements with changes in the frequency of data access.

3 | Inclusive multi-cloud software options

Unity XT HFAs support multiple cloud deployment options based on several software technologies that enable users to easily connect to a hybrid cloud environment. Several of these cloud deployment options take advantage of technologies such as VMware Cloud Foundation; VMware ESXi and asynchronous replication to get the job done. When these technologies are implemented individually or combined, users can perform file/block tiering, place Unity XT's virtual appliance in the cloud and gain access to available cloud workloads and services via managed service providers.

4 | All-inclusive software model

Each Unity XT HFA comes to you with all the software you need to store, manage, and protect your data and at no additional cost. Your comprehensive software portfolio includes Unisphere Management, inline data reduction, FAST Cache and FAST VP, unified snapshots, data at rest encryption, unified sync/async replication, Metrosync Manager for file, QoS, IP multi-tenancy, File Level Retention and no cost access to DevOps plugin technologies.

5 | Management simplicity

Unity XT HFAs represent the ultimate in midrange storage simplicity that all starts with the intuitiveness and ease of use of the Unisphere management GUI. Unisphere creates a straightforward user environment for configuring arrays and getting them into production mode in only a few short minutes. With Unisphere, users get clear visibility into all your storage and virtualized resources and a self-service portal with access to videos, documents and more. Additionally, Unisphere includes built-in data migration capabilities from legacy VNX and Unity arrays and 3rd party systems to Unity XT.

6 | Extensive and scalable file system

Unity XT HFAs work in either traditional or transactional NAS environments with support for a robust and multi-featured 256TBu file system. Unity XT has always been renowned for its unified approach to storage enabling users to consolidate all data types and save costs. Built-in file or NAS architectures are the ideal method for centralizing and sharing files making them easily accessible by anyone - anytime, anywhere.

7 | Software-defined storage

Unity XT Virtual Storage Appliance (Dell UnityVSA) is a low cost, high-capacity virtual solution that users can deploy on premises without losing the features and management of the physical Unity XT arrays. The same virtual storage appliance, Cloud Edition, is also offered on VMware Cloud for deployment in AWS clouds. With each implementation, users can create shared storage with NAS and iSCSI SAN protocols and use Unity XT data services on industry-standard server hardware.

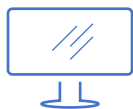## 8 | Reliable data protection software

Unity XT HFAs deliver the perfect mix of simplicity and cost with the several native data protection software solutions to help safeguard company and customer data. Whether the need is local, remote or metro node distance level protection, users are assured that their file, block and vVOL data are safe. And Unity XT is fully supported by Dell's complete suite of Data Protection Systems.

9 | DevOps software 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. Easily extend Unity XT operations with support of our Container Storage Interface (CSI) plugin. Additionally, 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 and Unity XT's support for Dell's vRO plugin enables users to automate end-to-end workflows spanning the entire infrastructure stack.

10 | Synchronous replication over metro distances

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

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Unity XT solutions

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