



Blue Pearl modernizes its data center with end-to-end Cisco HyperFlex hyperconverged platform

BluePearl Veterinary Partners:

Size: 3,000 employees

Industry: Veterinary medicine

Location:

United States

Tampa, Florida

Solutions

- All-in-one Cisco HyperFlex™ hyperconverged platform unifies computing, storage, and networking.
- Single-pane-of-glass management simplifies administration.

For More Information

For more information about the Cisco HyperFlex platform, visit <http://www.cisco.com/go/hyperflex>

BluePearl Veterinary Partners is a community of hospitals that offer specialty and emergency veterinary medicine. The company partners with family veterinarians who provide primary patient care, assuring an unbroken continuum of quality medicine for pets. Committed to kindness and compassionate care, BluePearl has had many high-profile successes, including saving the life of a U.S. Air Force canine trained to detect explosive devices.

Challenge: Supporting 100 Percent Annual Growth

BluePearl's business is growing fast, doubling in just 2 years. The company now maintains 57 locations in 18 states and must provide excellent performance and healthcare-grade systems availability to all animal care facilities.

"We faced a choice," says Derek DePasture, senior network engineer at BluePearl Veterinary Partners. "We either needed to hire more IT staff or make our environment easier to manage."

The company tried using a shared infrastructure platform from another vendor, but found it difficult to scale. "The solution worked fine for our current hub-and-spoke architecture, but couldn't support our long-term goal of moving to a centralized data

center," says DePasture. "There was no modular scalability, and each platform was a management silo."

Growing Smarter with Hyperconverged Infrastructure

Instead of expanding its IT team, BluePearl began looking for a unified solution that could scale flexibly—without losing the end-to-end management simplicity the company sought. "We wanted an all-in-one solution that would be data center ready without spawning new islands of infrastructure," says DePasture. "Our goal was to eliminate silos, not create them."

BluePearl decided to move away from its previous shared infrastructure platform and standardize on the Cisco HyperFlex platform to unlock the full potential of hyperconverged infrastructure. "Cisco HyperFlex was the perfect fit for us," says DePasture. "We can invest once and scale up as high as we need. It's a better solution from a technical perspective and it makes a lot more financial sense. Also, we have Cisco support behind us, which gives us a lot of confidence."

Deploying in a Day

DePasture and his team unboxed and configured the Cisco HyperFlex solution in 1 business day. In contrast, the competitor's

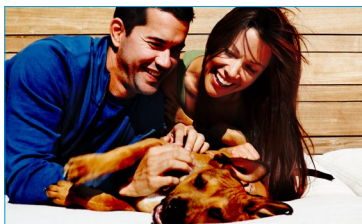
With Cisco solutions, BluePearl Veterinary Partners:



Reduces management requirements by three full-time employees



Deploys converged infrastructure in 80 percent less time



Scales efficiently and cost-effectively

solution required a week of administration before it was ready for production.

“Cisco HyperFlex took 80 percent less time to deploy than our previous solution, and speed equals efficiency,” says DePasture. “When you run as lean as we do, every minute is valuable.”

Keeping the Focus on Patient Care

With single-pane-of-glass management, the Cisco HyperFlex platform enables BluePearl to keep IT headcount flat despite rapid growth and avoid hiring three senior-level engineers. Instead of being consumed by infrastructure management, IT staff can focus on growth and providing excellent user experiences.

“With Cisco HyperFlex, we don’t have to worry, because everything is designed to work together, and there are multiple redundancies in place,” says DePasture. “As we grow, we can on-board new sites faster and find new ways to help our veterinarians deliver the best care possible. Where HyperFlex has been deployed, reports from users have been stellar.”

Improving Performance for Critical Apps

When BluePearl moved its Cornerstone

practice management software to the Cisco HyperFlex solution, which uses solid-state drives (SSD) for data caching, employees noticed a jump in performance.

“Just about everything in our business depends on Cornerstone, from patient records to billing,” says DePasture. “Now it’s crazy fast, creating a ripple effect of efficiency across our entire organization. Users are seeing zero lag time when working on reports, whereas previously they experienced a delay of 2 to 6 seconds when moving between screens.”

What’s Next

As BluePearl’s business continues to grow and its strategy evolves, its investment in Cisco® technology is protected. When BluePearl moves to a centralized data center in the near future, all Cisco HyperFlex nodes can still be managed as one integrated infrastructure.

“Cisco is the gold standard for technology, and that’s what we want to be when it comes to veterinary care,” says DePasture. “We plan to upgrade our entire core data center infrastructure to Cisco technology, including servers, switches, routers, and firewalls.”

Products and Services

Unified Computing

- Cisco HyperFlex HX240c M4 Nodes with Cisco UCS® B200 M4 Blade Server
- Cisco UCS 6248UP 48-Port Fabric Interconnect
- Cisco UCS Manager

Routing and Switching

- Cisco Catalyst® 3850 Series Switches

Virtualization

- VMware vSphere

Security

- Cisco Adaptive Security Appliances (ASA) next-generation firewalls

Services

- Cisco Smart Net Total Care™ service



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