kaminario.

WHO:
Ashkelon Academic College

CHALLENGES:
VDI performance, costs, application latency delays for 1000 users

IT ENVIRONMENT:
SQL, VDI, 100 percent virtualized – VMware, Exchange, Sharepoint, ExLibris, ERP, BI, LMS, Ms-SQL, Linux

SOLUTION:
Kaminario K2

BENEFITS:
80 percent performance improvements

High-speed VDI Performance in Support of Higher Education

Ashkelon College uses Kaminario K2 to accelerate business and academics

Executive Summary

The advanced IT systems at Ashkelon College were 100 percent virtualized and heavily dependent on virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI). However, storage latency issues were causing severe VDI performance problems. The introduction of Kaminario K2 systems improved VDI performance by 80 percent. With the demonstrated capabilities of Kaminario, Ashkelon confidently added a larger K2 system that that now serves as a single platform for all college business and academic applications.

College Overview

Ashkelon Academic College in Ashkelon is certified, supervised and sponsored by the Council for Higher Education in Israel. On an impressive new campus, it offers distinctive undergraduate programs with an emphasis on advanced technology. Senior academic staff provide students with quality individual attention in smallgroup settings. The new campus features a modern technology infrastructure with computer laboratories, an international conference center, access to a virtualized cloud computing infrastructure, smart classrooms, and a world-class library.

The Challenge

Ashkelon's IT department is responsible for all applications and technology support for college academic and administrative functions. They have developed an advanced and sophisticated environment providing access to academic sites, mobile apps, virtual desktop infrastructure, computer labs and dedicated websites for each academic course offered. Their systems enable communications between teachers and students, handle learning management, grades, business reporting, and payments. With all of that, the performance and reliability of IT systems and infrastructure are of critical importance to academic activities and business operations. But performance was lagging, particularly for VDI. With 1000 users, 500 on VDI, their EMC storage was too old and slow. Students were suffering from daily boot storms that lasted 20 minutes and more. It was time to consider whatwould come next.

Examining Options

When Ashkelon first looked for alternatives, all-flash offerings were limited. The hybrid flash/disk systems offered by EMC and NetApp wouldn't be sufficient to resolve latency issues. However, Kaminario's all-flash offering had appeal for VDI in particular. Its potential to solve the latency problem promised a significant improvement in user satisfaction as well as productivity. But this was new technology and the Ashkelon IT team was skeptical. To get the proof required, they accepted Kaminario's offer for an on-site trial.

"At the start, I didn't know about Kaminario. Then our sales rep, Ron, came to demonstrate. He promised a lot, and it sounded too good to be true. It wasn't."

Roni Ben Ishay, CIO, Ashkelon Academic College

IMMEDIATE BENEFITS

- All college applications are now running on Kaminario all-flash storage. That includes mixed applications and analytics - one array handling the functions of two.

- Overall VDI performance has increased by as much as 80 percent.

- In addition to high performance VDI, complex college business reports now run in ten minutes instead of two hours. And they run during business hours with no impact on performance.

- Individual VDI systems boot in 20 seconds instead of two minutes.

- Laboratory and "boot-storm" startups are completed in five minutes instead of 20.

- User satisfaction is high for all systems performance, and class delays have been minimized.

- No performance degradation regardless of user count.

- System maintenance is "much simpler, requiring little attention It gives us peace of mind."

- Confidence in Kaminario capabilities has promoted the platform for development and implementation of more specialized and sophisticated solutions.

The Solution

Since VDI's lagging performance was their biggest issue, that's where they started. The six TB Kaminario K2 system was delivered, installed and running in just four hours. (The IT team had allocated a week.) The performance difference was obvious and immediate. VDI boot times improved by more than 80 percent. Individual applications came up in three seconds instead of three minutes, and the laboratory boot storms fell to five minutes from 20. They had found their solution for VDI latency.

While Ashkelon's first Kaminario system was fully dedicated to VDI, they quickly became more familiar and confident with all-flash capabilities to run all college business. As their EMC array was declared end-of-life, it was time for another look at competitive all-flash solutions. The comparison results showed "Kaminario was better than all others in combined performance, reliability, functionality and price." said Ben Ishay, "so, a new 60TB K2 was purchased to handle all college business. Now everything runs on flash." It's a mix of all workloads – application and analytic – for all users, on just one versatile high-performance storage platform.

"Kaminario service and support is excellent. They call us to fix a problem before we even know a problem exists."

Moshe Vanunu, Director of Systems Administration and Security

What's Next

Ashkelon next big IT project is to enhance the capacity and reliability of backup and disaster recovery. Given their strong confidence in Kaminario, the new systems are likely to rely on all-flash storage.

Contact

Contact a business development representative to answer any questions you may have.

Schedule a Demo

Schedule a demo with an engineer and learn if Kaminario's solution works for you.

Request a Quote

Request a quote for your application from our business development team.

About Kaminario

Kaminario, the leading all-flash storage company, is redefining the future of modern data centers. Its unique solution enables organizations to succeed in today's on-demand world and prepares them to seamlessly handle tomorrow's innovations. Only Kaminario K2 delivers the agility, scalability, performance and economics a data center requires to deal with today's cloud-first, dynamic world and provide real-time data access -- anywhere, anytime. Hundreds of customers rely on the Kaminario K2 all-flash array to power their mission critical applications and safeguard their digital ecosystem. Headquartered in Needham, MA, Kaminario works with an extensive network of resellers and distributors, globally.

For more information, visit www.kaminario.com

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