

## finch VIRTUALIZATION

### COMPANY

Finch Paper is located at the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains, on the banks of the Hudson River in northern New York. They've been making paper here for over 100 years with a keen understanding that the viability of their mill relies on the wise use—and reuse—of resources.

They are an integrated paper mill practicing sustainable forestry, generating their own green power, and making their own pulp to produce high-quality, affordable uncoated printing papers. They personally promise that their paper is made responsibly — with a steadfast commitment to keep forests as forests.

### CHALLENGE

Finch Paper was faced with the tough decision of updating their current server environment while keeping costs down, increasing performance and systems availability for a 24/7 operation. In the paper industry, uptime is a must. Line of business applications must be available to sales, production, shipping, receiving and management among many other departments.

The needs of Finch Paper were not unique in principle, but their needs were unique in regards to price versus solution. Their current environment contained a SAN infrastructure that provided the full allotment of feature sets, but commanded a heavy cost of maintenance. Their server room contained many racks of expensive physical servers that required expensive air conditioning units to cool the room. This combined with the amount of server racks created space constraints. The number of physical servers exceeded 50 and added a considerable amount of time to maintain. Hardware updates and maintenance consumed staff time and their focus was more on maintaining rather than innovating their environment.

ADKtechs was tasked with designing a virtual environment to accommodate a high volume of traffic while maintaining consistent performance and high availability for the 1,000+ devices that would be utilizing these resources.



## SOLUTION

Prior to quoting the project, ADKtechs performed a thorough network assessment at the Finch Paper headquarters to properly size the VMware environment, ensuring it would be able to meet the needs of the customer. The tools used in this assessment took into consideration the immediate needs of the server environment and future growth considerations.

ADKtechs laid the groundwork for a robust, virtual environment with hardware that was needed to accommodate a solid, centralized storage solution that housed physical servers that would be converted to virtual servers. This would reduce the number of physical servers consuming electricity, generating heat and thus increasing cooling costs.

The centralized storage solution consisted of two Dell Equallogic SANs with redundant controllers, 70TB of RAW Tier 2 and Tier 3 storage. Next, we needed to implement a local backup solution that could easily backup and restore their servers. Utilizing the technologies encompassed in the StorageCraft ShadowProtect product.

Lastly, we addressed the networking requirements by moving desktops from the core Nexus switch to stacked Cisco 3560s and setup 10GB Ethernet connectivity between the SANs and servers.

---

## RESOLUTION

By project's end, Finch Paper was able to spend less time maintaining their environment and more time innovating their organization. The resiliency of their systems increased while their costs plummeted. This project of virtualization and consolidation was delivered on time, on budget, and far exceeded their previous levels of performance while saving the organization more than \$60,000 over other proposed technology paths.



We make technology work for you



(518) 638-2020



INFO@ADKTECHS.COM



ADKTECHS.COM