



Gridstore Brings Meyers Nave the Performance, Capacity, and Value Needed to Support Its LexisNexis Environment



Customer Overview

Meyers Nave is a law firm on the forefront of numerous emerging legal matters facing local governments in the state of California. With over 70 attorneys in six offices statewide, Meyers Nave advises and manages a wide-range of critical issues impacting public agencies today, such as new laws regulating greenhouse gas emissions, water quality and water rights, medical marijuana, ethics and transparency in government, public employees and retiree benefits, and public finance.

Challenge: supporting state-of-the-art technology that houses vast amounts of information

As a full-service law firm, Meyers Nave offers comprehensive knowledge and experience in virtually all areas of law. Many of its attorneys have worked in public agency law for more than 20 years and deliver the insight of insiders who understand the operation and character of government agencies and businesses in California and the perspective and objectivity of a third-party legal expert.

Meyers Nave's challenge was one that is unique to law practices. Its Windows 2008 server R2 environment includes the LexisNexis Evolution document review system, providing an environment for securely hosting litigation and discovery data for large-scale online document reviews. Matthew Reynolds, top technologist overseeing the Information Technology Department at Meyers Nave, said that because of the immense volume of client legal data, the demands for storage are extremely high and constantly in flux given the unpredictability of client traffic. He began investigating emerging vendors for high-density, high performance, lower cost, reliable and minimally disruptive storage solutions, as he was already familiar with the offerings from Tier 1 storage vendors.

"In high-stakes litigation, there is a massive amount of electronic information and it historically resided across a farm of servers at the firm," said Reynolds. "My objective was to consolidate the ESI (electronically stored information) sprawl while elevating overall capacity, speed, reliability, and reducing costs. While not new to contemporary storage solutions, I explored traditional options, but found them to be too expensive. It was only natural for me to take a close look at Gridstore since their approach and architecture were sensible for Meyers Nave."

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Solution Highlights

- Three Gridstore performance storage nodes with 36TB disk and 1.5TB of PCIe flash
- Windows Server 2008 running SQL in Hyper-V
- Support for Meyers Nave's LexisNexis Evolution Document Review System
- Provided per-VM isolation and management for increased performance of the SQL databases

Reynolds was invited to Gridstore's campus to see the company "white board" its storage solution. After some discussion, he determined LexisNexis' Evolution system was a viable application to host on Gridstore's storage in a Hyper-V environment hosting numerous Microsoft SQL Server databases as well as tens of thousands of unstructured files.

"I had a good understanding of Gridstore after our discussion. Its ability to increase overall storage capacity by expanding nodes was attractive, as was how it provided the ability to add capacity nearly on the fly while at a competitive price point. Additionally, Gridstore solved the performance problem by essentially creating individual highway lanes for all the I/O from each VM," said Reynolds.

Meyers Nave purchased three Gridstore performance storage nodes for its Oakland, California location to warehouse ESI information, and this immediately provided sufficient capacity to begin the consolidation effort from a farm of other servers. This effort continues today along with the use and ingestion of ESI data to the Gridstore 3 series where the LexisNexis Evolution system resides.

"Gridstore has a rich feature set, which is not unique to high-end storage vendors, but unique is the price point and resiliency offered by Gridstore. If one drive—or even an entire storage node fails—with Gridstore's "striping" redundancy, their system still keeps business operations alive."

Solution: Gridstore – "Now that's innovation"

The Gridstore installation at Meyers Nave has brought with it several benefits, including speed, innovation, scale, and most importantly, value.

"A benefit of Gridstore is that it provides a high-performance solution with its Hybrid offering—a combination flash for caching and spinning disk for storage—at a competitive price compared to other storage vendors. Not to be ignored are the patents, which demonstrates Gridstore's innovation, product evolution and sustainability in a highly competitive marketplace. As a customer of Gridstore, this is an important element in a long-term relationship between vendor and customer," said Reynolds.

"One of the most cost-effective decisions we have recently made is going with Gridstore. The ROI on paper was tangible, but now that we have months of test-driving the storage solution, the ROI is now demonstratively proven. With Gridstore, we have solved our business need for supporting Meyers Nave's e-discovery storage and processing needs. Other solutions can be exponentially more expensive," said Reynolds. "I knew when I looked at Gridstore, Meyers Nave would be in a good technological position."

The business needs for Gridstore are also expanding at Meyers Nave. The firm plans to acquire additional Gridstore nodes to meet its storage demands.

Certification

Microsoft®
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Results: dependable storage supports in-house e-discovery system

Meyers Nave realized several benefits in implementing Gridstore:

- The firm's LexisNexis Evolution e-Discovery system is very demanding of storage capacity and performance and Gridstore has been able to meet these easily.
- Meyers Nave's storage needs are growing and the Gridstore solution allows them to expand on a node-by-node basis to meet that increasing demand with no need for a forklift upgrade in the future.
- Acquisition and implementation costs were significantly lower than the other solutions Meyers Nave is either using today or was considering purchasing.
- Customer and engineering support provided from Gridstore is "second to none."

"Gridstore came along and proved to be the ideal solution for Meyers Nave. It is incredibly resilient and redundant, solved our performance challenges, and was highly cost effective. On top of the other benefits, Gridstore eliminates the I/O bottlenecks found on virtualized servers, further improving overall performance," said Reynolds.

Results Highlights

- Gridstore provided a high performance storage solution meeting Meyers Nave's demands
- Gridstore is a resilient and robust complement to Meyers Nave's in-house specialized law practice needs
- Gridstore supports node by node expansion to meet increasing storage demands
- Cost effective acquisition and implementation costs

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