

**COMPANY:**

RAM Infotechnology
www.ram-it.nl

CHALLENGE:

- Virtualizing entire data center while providing performance
- Ability to provide data center services to a wide range of infrastructure needs

SOLUTION HIGHLIGHTS:

- Six Pure Storage FA-420 systems in VMware environment
- 60 terabyte raw flash capacity = 150 terabyte net
- Virtualized infrastructure supporting datacenter services for wide range of customers

USE CASE

VSI

GEO

Netherlands

INDUSTRY

Webscale/SaaS

THE CHALLENGE: A FAST, EASY-TO-USE STORAGE SOLUTION THAT IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE

RAM Infotechnology is a provider of IT outsourcing services, focused on workplace solutions and hosting. The company is specialized in workplace services for the financial, healthcare and government sectors; three areas in which security, reliability and availability of applications and data are essential.

In early 2014, RAM Infotechnology moved to a brand-new location in Utrecht, where it also installed a completely new data center. The data center infrastructure consists of a 10 Gbps backbone and a VMware layer. “We are trying to virtualize everything, which means no more physical servers per customer,” explains Wouter Levenbach, Director Technology RAM Infotechnology. “In order to achieve this, you need very fast storage solutions. This is why we purchased Pure Storage appliances.”

The second reason is that RAM Infotechnology, as provider of data center services, has to deal with a wide range of customers, who use the infrastructure for very different purposes. This is why the company was not only looking for a fast storage solution, but also one that does not require very specific configurations for the system to function optimally in every individual setting. “This is something we did struggle with in the past with storage solutions from NetApp, IBM and HP. We wanted to offer our customers a solution in our new data center that works in every situation, without complications.”

THE ANSWER: THE EASY TO INSTALL AND MANAGE FLASHARRAY SOLUTION BY PURE STORAGE

As they were searching for a flash solution to meet their needs, the team at RAM Infotechnology closely monitored developments in the storage market. Pure Storage found its way to the top of the wish list, because the technology meet their requirements and demands. When Pure Storage opened an office in the Netherlands in 2013, Wouter Levenbach was one of the first to reach out to them. RAM Infotechnology first tested the technology as a ‘proof of concept’ and it quickly found it’s way into their production environment.

The actual implementation of the new data center was completed within two days. “This is one of the huge advantages of Pure Storage over traditional providers. The systems arrive, you hang them in racks, switch them on, configure them for a few hours and they are ready to go. When you look at traditional storage, it often takes weeks to set up and fine tune.”

THE SOLUTION: AN ARRAY THAT ALLOWS MAINTENANCE TO TAKE PLACE DURING BUSINESS HOURS

RAM Infotechnology is benefiting from an important business advantage by implementing Pure Storage technology: all maintenance activities can now take place during business hours. In the past, nothing relating to storage management could happen during office hours. It was impossible to copy, take snapshots or perform any other maintenance.

“Maintenance can occur even during peak hours.”

Wouter Levenbach, Director Technology

“All of this is I/O-sensitive, which meant it was inconvenient for our users, because they were at the maximum I/O level by that time. Everything had to happen in the evening or at night. Because the Pure Storage solution is so fast, we can now perform maintenance in the middle of the day, and even during peak hours.”

RAM Infotechnology now has a total of six FA-420 systems online, with the capacity varying between 5.5 and 18TB. When he is asked for a score Wouter Levenbach is thoroughly enthusiastic: “I give the Pure Storage solution a 9 out of 10. The system meets our expectations at every level: it is stable and simple, runs all the time, is uncomplicated and fast; it really meets all expectations!”



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