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Modern cloud data protection, HCI spur innovation.

The Warrell Corporation, https://www.warrellcorp.com/private-label-candy-manufacturing, is ready to innovate and scale their IT and their business, thanks to modern data protection with cloud disaster recovery and a high-performing hyperconverged infrastructure.

Warrell creations®

Food manufacturer/supplier | United States

Business needs

To keep their manufacturing applications available, the Warrell Corporation wanted a reliable data protection solution to reduce their backup time and enable cloud disaster recovery. To support innovation, they wanted to replace their aging server infrastructure with a high-performing solution that would be easy to manage, update and scale.

Solutions at a glance

- IDPA
- Cloud DR
- VxRail
- VMware
- Amazon Web Services (AWS)

Business results

- Reduced backup times from overrunning all-night window to 2 hours

- 120x (99.2%) deduplication ratio

- Increased server storage speed 466%

- Increased server network speed 1000%

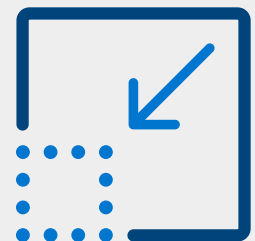- Reduced physical server footprint by 60%

Reduced nightly backup window to

2 hours

Reduced physical server footprint by

60%

Warrell Corporation, based in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, is one of the top contract and private-label candy manufacturers in North America. From its start 50 years ago as a small-town shop, it has expanded to serve the needs of leading food companies worldwide. By engaging in technical candy-making research and development, Warrell helps its customers bring innovative, customer-pleasing treats to market. To maintain the agility and quality they are known for, they partnered with Dell Technologies to transform their IT infrastructure.

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> Clifton Dorsey,
> Vice President, The Warrell Corporation

Fresh Ingredients Needed

Warrell had an outdated EqualLogic SAN that was dedicated to backing up workloads along with their incumbent software. Backups were inconsistent: Every night, some of them failed, and Warrell was struggling to meet their overnight backup windows. "We had zero confidence in what we were backing up," says Clifton Dorsey, Vice President, The Warrell Corporation. "The backups took 12 to 14 hours, and that was only replicating to another set of local disk drives."

Their disaster recovery (DR) solution: "We were using tapes" says Dorsey. "We had a tape rotation that fell on the IT on-call person to perform. We had an employee take a tape home every night." Efficient, timely recovery would have been impossible, Dorsey adds. "We were unable to get a good copy of our data off-site. We need

to get our data off-site and in a useable state, so that we could run out of the cloud if our primary server room ever became unusable."

In addition, Warrell was pressed by Windows upgrades and a need to simplify and upgrade their aging physical server structure. Footprint and power constraints, application growth, maintenance and time to provision were all challenges they faced. "Reliability and the prospect of downtime concerned us," says Dorsey, "because we had very limited ability to troubleshoot our infrastructure."

Also in the mix: competitive pressures, budget constraints and – especially in an industry where food quality and safety standards must be met – compliance.

New Recipe for Growth

"In this day and age," Dorsey notes, "IT is the center of all business initiatives. If you are unable to access emails, files or applications you rely on every day, you become less effective in working with your customers." Warrell needed an infrastructure that could keep their manufacturing applications highly available and support their accounting, engineer, sales, quality assurance, R&D and shipping departments. "Without these systems up and running, our business suffers," says Dorsey.

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Seeking a comprehensive solution for their IT transformation, Warrell chose Dell Technologies. "Some of us have had experience with Dell EMC Avamar software in the past and were very happy with it," says Dorsey. The proposed Dell EMC solution's tight integration with VMware, vSphere and vCenter was also influential in their choice, as well as scalability, ease of upgrade, performance and superior deduplication and compression.

"Single vendor support and account managers… It's a perfect partnership for us. We have one hand to high five."

Clifton Dorsey,
Vice President, The Warrell Corporation

Warrell transformed their environment with a Dell EMC Integrated Data Protection Appliance (IDPA), Cloud Disaster Recovery (Cloud DR) and VxRail hyperconverged infrastructure. "The pricing was good, and the solution's ease of use hooked us," says Dorsey. "We used Dell Professional Services for the implementation. The process was easy, and now backups are running smoothly.

"Dell Technologies has always been a solid partner. It just made sense with the IDPA and VxRail offerings. Wrap around that, single vendor support and account managers, and it's a perfect partnership for us. One hand to high five."

No More Backup Crunch

Warrell uses their IDPA to protect their on-premises environment, a mix of Windows and Linux servers. With the IDPA, they have found that backups take two hours, rather than overrunning a night-long backup window. What's more, says Dorsey, "We are now able to run backups at any time during the day if needed, without any performance impacts on our production workloads. IDPA has given us a comfort in knowing that we have reliable backups. We have peace of mind with our entire backup structure now."

"Management gets a daily emailed report showing the status of each backup, so there is full transparency about the success rate on every level," says Dorsey. "The backup schedules and reports are both simpler, and easier to use now. It's easier to tell if every backup is completed and what data will be in each backup job. The reliability of this solution can't be beat. And our deduplication ratio is unfathomable to me. Overall, it's 120x. That's 99.2% dedupe. With ease of management and an all-in-one solution, we've been empowered to build a backup structure and plan that will take us to the next level."

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Warrell uses Cloud DR to automatically upload their backups to AWS each night and keeps two days of backups in the cloud. "It's very easy to failback to our on-premises VMware environment," says Dorsey. "It's given us confidence that our servers and data are backed up in case anything happens. We were actually able to use the solution to migrate from our old server hardware to our new hardware, which was a huge help and time savings."

A Sweet Setup for the Server Environment

Warrell's VxRail appliance now serves as their primary server environment, running vCenter with 77 VMs. "Dell Technologies was able to work with us to set up every component of the environment we needed," says Dorsey. "They were able to bundle all our VMware licensing in the VxRail system. We also have an expanded feature set available to us with better VMware licensing."
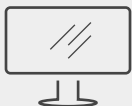
Their workload environment is a mix of Windows and Linux, with domain controllers, file servers, SQL servers and application servers. Many of their servers run

Microsoft NAV. According to Dorsey, "Our servers run much faster than before. This is noticeable by our end users." Warrell has decreased the physical size of their server hardware by over 60%. Storage speed on the servers has been increased 466%, and network speed on the servers has increased 1000%.

"Updating and maintaining the VxRail is incredibly easy because of Dell's top-notch support. Every update has been validated to work on each VxRail configuration." And, looking ahead, "VxRail one-click upgrades will allow us to spend less time maintaining the equipment and more time servicing our customers," notes Dorsey.

Innovation at the Heart

"Innovation is at the heart of everything we do as a company for our snacks and confections every day," says Dorsey. "It only makes sense that we can now look to innovation in our IT department as well. Our platform now has the scalability we will need for our business. We are poised and ready for expansion in both our IT environment and our company."

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