Empowering clients with high-availability IT

Unify Digital

Enabling 24/7 operations for a major manufacturer with hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI) based on Lenovo ThinkAgile VX Series.

Lenovo

Who is Unify Digital?

Unify Digital is a technology specialist that provides managed IT, cybersecurity, and software development services to companies across New Zealand. Established 20 years ago, Unify Digital is headquartered in Auckland. It delivers innovative solutions that help make its clients' business visions a reality.

Unify
DIGITAL

2 The challenge

Many of Unify Digital's clients have a requirement for high-availability IT services. One such company is a major manufacturer that has been working with Unify Digital for many years. Over time, the company's demands have evolved.

Daniel Oliver, Managing Director of Unify Digital, explains: "Since we started working with them, this manufacturer's business has nearly quadrupled in size. As their operations have grown, they've asked us to help them set up increasingly sophisticated IT solutions to support 24/7 manufacturing processes."

2 The challenge

Recently, the manufacturer made the decision to upgrade its business-critical SAP environment to SAP S/4HANA and asked Unify Digital to build new on-premises IT infrastructure to support the new software. The company was looking for high availability, resilience, and performance.

"**High-availability IT** is becoming more of a priority for our clients as they face new competition and growing customer expectations. Our role is to help them **leverage cutting-edge technologies** to meet these demands without breaking the bank."

Daniel Oliver

Managing Director, Unify Digital

Harnessing the power of HCI

Unify Digital helped the manufacturer evaluate proposals from Lenovo and offerings available from other competitors in the market, before homing in on an HCI solution from Lenovo as the best option.

Alongside distributor Dicker Data, Lenovo put forward a solution featuring Lenovo ThinkAgile VX 2U Certified Nodes for SAP HANA. Six HCI cluster nodes are split between two sites and configured in an active/active configuration for high availability.

Hardware
Lenovo ThinkAgile VX 2U
Certified Node for SAP HANA

Software
Lenovo XClarity Pro
Microsoft Windows Server 2022
SAP S/4HANA
SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for
SAP Applications
VMware vCenter Server
VMware vSAN

Services
Lenovo Premier Support

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"A modern, resilient infrastructure with **fault tolerance built-in** is invaluable. The **improved data protection and disaster recovery capabilities** mean we are far better positioned to weather any potential disruptions and **safeguard our critical business information.**"

CEO

Manufacturing company

Achieving a smooth cutover

Avoiding disruption was a key priority for the manufacturer, so Unify Digital worked to plan a migration that would require zero downtime. The team configured the HCI solution, undertook baseline testing to ensure that it performed as expected, then migrated virtual servers in small batches from the legacy infrastructure to the new platform.

The solution includes Lenovo XClarity systems management software, offering Unify Digital unprecedented insight into resource utilization and potential issues, and helping the company optimize the platform for its client on an ongoing basis. The active/active configuration means that business-critical systems remain online even if multiple hosts fail, providing a high degree of resilience.

3 The solution

What's more, the solution is backed by Lenovo Premier Support. "The manufacturer has us as the first line of defense, but Lenovo is also waiting in the wings if ever they need any help," says Daniel Oliver.

" **"Knowing that we can fall back on the Lenovo Premier Support team gives us and our client peace of mind."**

Daniel Oliver
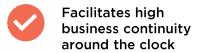
Managing Director, Unify Digital

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"Despite the tight timeframe, most users at the manufacturer **didn't even notice the move** to the Lenovo HCI cluster. You can't ask for a better outcome than that. This was our first time deploying Lenovo ThinkAgile VX Series and XClarity systems management software, so we were **delighted with the post-sales support provided by Lenovo**."
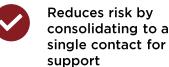
Daniel Oliver

Managing Director, Unify Digital

4 The results

Running its new SAP S/4HANA software on the Lenovo HCI cluster gives Unify Digital's manufacturing client high performance around the clock. By minimizing interruptions to the company's manufacturing processes, the solution helps to boost productivity and revenues.

The manufacturer's IT Manager comments: "Even during peak loads, our disk latency remains consistently below 2 milliseconds, a dramatic improvement over our previous system. Each host's 1.5 TB of memory is also being efficiently managed, sitting between 20% and 60% utilization, ensuring smooth operation even under demanding workloads. This robust and responsive foundation has translated directly into faster application performance and a much more stable environment overall."

✓ Facilitates high business continuity around the clock

✓ Reduces risk by consolidating to a single contact for support

✓ Offers predictable costs and headroom for growth

Simplifying for success

Unify Digital's manufacturing client now has fewer vendors to rely on, simplifying support significantly. The company also benefits from predictable costs for its IT infrastructure. When combined with deeper insight into resource utilization, the manufacturer has the visibility required for better capacity planning for the future.

"Lenovo ThinkAgile VX Series helps us give our manufacturing client more control over their IT resources," says Daniel Oliver. "We've eliminated any finger pointing between vendors with a single contact for support. They've got the capacity to more than accommodate current demands, and it's straightforward for us to scale up the environment for them if they want more capacity in the future. We've set up this manufacturer for long-term success with Lenovo—and many other companies could benefit from a similar solution."

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"What's truly significant is the bedrock this new infrastructure, expertly planned and executed by Unify Digital, provides for our enduring partnership. Coupled with their ongoing managed IT and security services, we have a **holistic solution that allows us to focus on our core business with complete confidence**. It's not just about a technology deployment; it's about a **strategic alignment and a trusted relationship** with Unify Digital that we see as crucial for our long-term success and resilience."

CEO

Manufacturing company

"**The business case for Lenovo ThinkAgile VX Series is strong**: when comparing the ongoing costs for the solution to an equivalent cloud-hosted alternative, you realize that it's great value for money. It delivers on **performance, resilience, and ease of management**, adding up to a stand-out option for our clients."

Daniel Oliver

Managing Director, Unify Digital

Why Lenovo?

Unify Digital narrowed down the vendors for its manufacturing client's IT infrastructure solution to those certified to run SAP S/4HANA. It selected Lenovo because of the competitive price, plus the excellent pre-sales support that inspired confidence that the Lenovo solution would deliver on its promises.

How can companies operate 24/7?

Unify Digital helps a manufacturing client achieve rock-solid resilience with a Lenovo HCI solution.

Explore Lenovo ThinkAgile Solutions