Based in Fresno, California, Community Medical Centers (Community) is a locally owned, not-for-profit, public-benefit organization and the region's largest health care provider and private employer. Community operates three hospitals, several other health care facilities and a physician residency program with the University of California, San Francisco. They are also home to the only Level 1 trauma center between Los Angeles and Sacramento.

THE CHALLENGE

Community approached CMI in 2012 when they were considering moving to a new solution for their Interface Engine environment. Their previous interface was a combination of Oracle software and custom-written interfaces managed internally by one person. This important architectural interface was seen by Community management as overly complex and very limiting for the future. In addition, their existing SUN hardware was no longer supported so maintaining the hardware and software required significant downtime and forced the IT team to contend with limited failover capabilities that created exposure in a disaster. Lastly, Community was facing steadily increasing Oracle licensing costs.

THE SOLUTION

To address issues of scalability, complexity, reliability and cost, CMI proposed PureFlex, IBM's converged solution integrating compute, storage networking and management components in one chassis. PureFlex allows Community to run on new, supported technology and centrally manage a combined environment of different compute platforms, OS's (AIX, Windows, and Linux), networking and virtualized storage. Central management with PureFlex's Flex System Manager (FSM) was key in reducing complexity and improving reliability across the various components as Community's software applications operate through the Interface Engine environment. CMI brought expertise in the installation and configuration of the operating environments, virtualization, and failover capabilities to ensure the flow of information is handled efficiently. Knowledge transfer was provided to the Community staff so they could easily manage moving forward.

SOLUTION COMPONENTS

Flex System Enterprise Chassis 2-p460 Power Nodes running AIX

2-x240 x86 Nodes running Windows and RedHat Enterprise Linux

Flex Systems Manager

v7000 Storage

THE BENEFITS

By moving off SUN and onto IBM PureFlex, Community expanded control of a sprawling network of applications, removed a single point of failure, and created a centrally managed solution that is confidently supported within their IT infrastructure. They also reduced downtime by managing hardware, software and firmware updates without having to bring systems down to their end users. Community gained cost benefits from significant reductions in Oracle license and operating costs. Productivity was enhanced with the centralized management capabilities, reducing Interface Engine downtime, and by no longer maintaining the hardware and software themselves. The best benefit -- all patient data is updated, current, and visible to hospital employees as needed, which improves patient care and enables Community for growth and expansion well into the future.

"Long before Community Medical Centers engaged CMI for services and purchased our 1st significant IBM platform, the CMI team had been providing guidance and just plain old advice insuring that we were pretty well educated by the time we engaged for services. I really value our partnership with CMI."

-David Bonnar, Manager, Web & Application Development & ERP Systems

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