



Client Profile

University of San Francisco

The University of San Francisco provides access to the ultimate extended classroom: San Francisco with its many opportunities and advantages. USF's 21st-century mission is to fashion a more humane and just world rooted in Jesuit values. USF comes alive in its diverse learning community and is broadened by its global orientation. At USF, students are challenged to reach higher standards and to use education to promote justice and serve the common good.

THE CHALLENGE

The School of Computer Science at the University of San Francisco (USF) was tasked to procure, provision and de-provision servers for 600 students and 30 faculty. Because they have a small IT staff, they wanted an innovative, private cloud solution that allowed them to remain nimble and efficient. Automation was critical to minimizing staff involvement and facilitating ease of management. High performance computing also was required for managing large data sets.

THE SOLUTION

After analyzing the customer's current environment, specific requirements and targeted end state, CMI recommended Converged Infrastructure – specifically IBM's PureFlex with x86 nodes, an external V7000, capacity for growth, open source Linux and KVM, and SmartCloud Entry for flexibility. Converged Infrastructure and cloud automation would be the foundation for their private cloud. The USF IT staff came to CMI's Executive Briefing Center for a hands-on demo of the PureFlex and the V7000, its management tools, ease of integration, compute nodes, cloud automation, and networking capabilities.

After spending time in the demo lab and discussing their challenges with the CMI engineers, the USF team agreed that CMI's recommendation of PureFlex and V7000 was the right private cloud solution. Once the decision was made, we worked with them to build the installation and migration plan. The installation will be executed in two phases. Phase 1 will include racking, stacking, and connecting to the network. Phase 2 plots the integration of KVM as the hypervisor of choice with IBM's SmartCloud Entry.

THE BENEFITS

The solution is not yet in production but based on testing there are some clear benefits expected. Dramatically improved ease of management is expected to be the most immediate benefit. One part-time IT person with a separate full time job will be able to manage the entire IT environment. Students and faculty will get what they need immediately and no one will need to worry about de-provisioning as it will be automated by policy. Additionally, there will be no further virtual sprawl.

The University of San Francisco, School of Computer Science will have the autonomy to do what they do well without having to go to a separate IT Department or manage a complex environment. And perhaps best of all, the students will have quick access to a streamlined and efficient development tool to advance their education.

ABOUT US

CMI leverages over 35+ years of experience, serving as an extension of client teams while helping them achieve competitive advantage through technology and innovation. We offer systems and storage infrastructure, software, cloud enablement, consulting and professional services in the relentless pursuit of IT optimization.

SOLUTION COMPONENTS

- PureFlex Chassis
- 8 x86 Nodes
- V7000 External SAN
- SmartCloud Entry
- Linux and KVM
- Built-In Ethernet Network with 1GB switches

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