Western Digital®

2CRSI Builds Custom IT Solutions Using Robust Western Digital Storage Platforms and Drives

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Challenge

Storage is a critical component of 2CRSI's enterprise IT solutions. However, they encountered high failure rates and excessive vibration with certain disk drives. 2CRSI needed a storage supplier with consistent high reliability products.

Solution

Partnership with Western Digital for supplying highly-reliable high-capacity storage platforms featuring HelioSeal® helium drives, backed by a 5-year warranty on all components.

Results

• Provide customers with best storage products on the market
• High capacity, low vibration, reliable storage platforms
• New business opportunities for 2CRSI

Company Profile

2CRSI was founded in 2005 in France as a Research and Development IT Company engaged to provide valuable services and high-end hardware. In French, 2CRSI stands for "Conseil, Conception, Recherche et Services Informatiques", which means "Consulting, Design, Research and Computer Services" in English. From the start, the company's DNA has been to provide the most adapted IT solutions to its customers. 2CRSI now has more than 500 customers across the globe.

Storage Concerns—Drive Failures and High Vibration

Storage is a critical component of 2CRSI's solutions. Whether for high-performance computing, customized servers or highly efficient converged platforms, storage is a major contributor to system performance and reliability. It is also the primary location of their customers' data.

However, they sometimes encountered problems with high failure rates and short life cycles in disk drives. These drive failures could slow customer productivity and required time and expense to replace. Another problem was high vibration levels in their NAS systems when using certain drives. Excessive vibration can affect system performance and drive reliability over time.

"As we promise our customers the best performance and an increase in productivity by selecting our servers, we really want to provide the best product, and those issues were not acceptable to us," said Alain Wilmouth, CEO of 2CRSI.

Robust Western Digital Storage Platforms

The company needed a storage partner that could supply drives with proven high MTBF (mean time between failures) figures and long life cycles in an integrated platform. "We evaluated and tested all comparable solutions on the market," said Wilmouth. "By doing our own research we found that [Western Digital] has a competitive edge, with good operating life expectations for their drives, backed by a 5-year warranty that includes all other platform components."

Western Digital storage platforms deliver constant data throughput under load, thanks to the solid mechanical design and drive internal vibration compensation feature. The Western Digital helium drives with HelioSeal® technology generate less heat than traditional drives, enabling very dense storage solutions. Low noise, efficient cooling and tight thermal distribution across drives made integration easy and worry-free. Low vibration levels allow mixed applications to run on the Western Digital platforms without impacting performance. For instance, a server running database searches might sit next to another one recording video. The T10-Zoning feature also allows the platform to be shared by up to four servers for greater cost effectiveness.

"Working with [Western Digital] provides us with new business opportunities in our market. Thanks to their products and our knowledge in platforms and server systems, we can provide our customer the most powerful storage solutions that help them increase their productivity."

Alain Wilmouth
CEO of 2CRSI

Another attraction to Western Digital was its well-known brand in the field of professional storage solutions with a reputation for quality products. "[Western Digital] is the go-to supplier for high quality storage components with high reliability and very low failure rates. Thus, thanks to the [Western Digital] partnership, we can provide to our customers with the best products on the market, by bringing them efficient and cost-effective solutions," said Wilmouth.

Benefits of the Western Digital Partnership

After partnering with Western Digital, 2CRSI was equipped for the first time to deliver high-capacity storage solutions with superb longevity—without worrying about thermal or vibration issues. From the user perspective, 2CRSI reported that customers noticed the endurance and long useful life of the Western Digital disks drives, thereby reducing the number of parts allocated to replacement pools and the hours spent servicing failing parts.

"Thanks to our proximity to [Western Digital], we are familiar with the products marketed by [Western Digital], which allows us to handle the installation of [Western Digital] solutions with ease," said Wilmouth. Western Digital storage platforms were already tested and integrated with a wide variety of HBAs, RAID controllers and operating systems. This "plug-and-play" integration sped up the development cycle of many new 2CRSI customer solutions. The high-bandwidth interface and daisy-chain expansion of storage pools enabled them to provide space for huge quantities of data in minutes.

As an example, 2CRSI developed a solution for a cloud file sharing service that allows users to upload and share files with others. The cloud application runs on x86 Linux servers and uses Western Digital storage platforms and disk drives in a traditional RAID 5 configuration. This 2CRSI customer is successful because of great network bandwidth and excellent system reliability and stability built on Western Digital storage.

Another example is a very large infrastructure for a French medical institute that will store patient data for 10+ years in order to develop treatments for nervous system disorders (brain and spinal cord) and enable patients to benefit from them as quickly as possible. The application is based on open-source scientific workflow software, OpenIO object storage technology and Western Digital storage hardware.

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Ultrastar Data102 and Ultrastar Data60 Storage Platforms

Western Digital.

5601 Great Oaks Parkway
San Jose, CA 95119, USA
US (Toll-Free): 800.801.4618
International: 408.717.6000

www.westerndigital.com