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Summary

Customer Petroleum Geo-Services (PGS)

Headquarters Oslo, Norway

Scope One of the world's leading seismic processing and imaging companies, PGS has worldwide operations in more than 22 countries.

Industry Energy

Challenge The previous data storage at PGS was difficult to manage and scale. Increased workload demands created storage bottlenecks that caused PGS to lose valuable processing time.

Solution Over 2 PB of Panasas storage was deployed in 21 PGS locations and on multiple PGS-owned vessels.

Results The Panasas solutiuon enabled PGS to maximize the ROI on their computing environment with:

- Increased productivity due to dramatically faster processing times
- Reduced administration due to simple installation and management
- Increased overall system availability

Petroleum Geo-Services Accelerates Energy Acquisition

ADVANCING MARINE SUBSURFACE KNOWLEDGE FOR EVOLVING ENERGY NEEDS

Petroleum Geo-Services (PGS) uses innovative technology, reservoir expertise, and cutting-edge seismic services to deliver solutions that help energy customers efficiently find, develop, and produce hydrocarbons anywhere in the world.

Headquartered in Oslo, Norway, PGS is a global technology-focused company that provides geophysical and reservoir services, including seismic data acquisition, processing, and interpretation, plus field evaluation.

PGS focuses on providing the most cost-effective seismic processing services combined with superior algorithms that uniquely help energy companies locate resources quickly.

Because PGS records massive volumes of raw data in the field, their compute systems and storage infrastructure both play a vital role in helping the company differentiate its services.

The Data Storage Challenge at PGS

PGS had previously relied on storage and file system solutions that were difficult to manage and could not scale to meet the requirements of their internally developed parallel seismic applications.

Over time, increased workload demands created bottlenecks on the storage I/O and caused PGS to lose valuable processing time. In addition, they experienced increasing costs and complexities in managing their storage.

PGS

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Richard McNally
Manager, PGS Global Computer Resources

These factors were impacting their ability to provide reliable and cost-effective services to their customers.

"The faster we can deliver results, to our clients, the faster they can decide where to drill, so high throughput and fast response times are essential. In addition, our customers require us to process their data locally within their countries," said Steve Pitman, VP, PGS Data Processing and Technology. "This means remote management, simple installation, and easy overall storage administration are critical requirements for us to respond quickly to our customers."

Panasas Delivers an Optimized Data Storage Foundation

After PGS evaluated several storage systems, they found that none matched the performance and manageability of the Panasas solution.

By deploying Panasas ActiveStor® storage running The PanFS® parallel file system, PGS has realized substantial performance increases for seismic applications and dramatically reduced cost and complexity of their storage infrastructure. Instead of incurring the management burden of partitioning clusters to obtain adequate I/O performance, the Panasas solution enables PGS to maintain high-speed, parallel data transfer between PGS's Linux-based clusters and Panasas storage systems while minimizing management costs.

"We looked at a variety of storage systems, but there was no compelling case to purchase any of them until we evaluated the Panasas storage system. The Panasas DirectFlow® protocol enabled us to maximize bandwidth and throughput to every compute node in the system," said Richard McNally, Manager for PGS Global Computer Resources. "While the workflow is constantly changing, we now have consistent performance and greater flexibility to run more demanding jobs."

Over 2 petabytes of Panasas storage is deployed in 21 PGS processing centers worldwide including sites in Asia, Australia, Africa, Europe, North and South America. In addition, Panasas storage is deployed on multiple PGS-owned vessels that are searching for oil beneath the ocean floor.

Faster Results and Reduced Storage Costs

PGS reduced their time to deliver results to customers and reduced their overall IT costs.

"Before we installed Panasas storage, our ability to cost-effectively respond to new projects was severely limited by our storage infrastructure," said McNally. "Unlike most high-end storage products, the Panasas storage system is very easy to install, manage, and upgrade. It has been extremely stable and is the only high-performance plug-and-play solution that met our diverse needs. When issues do arise, Panasas support personnel have been extremely responsive. Panasas is very flexible and easy to work with."