

Acuutech®

Lenovo™

Acuutech boosts client services by harnessing the power of software-defined storage



Overview

To sharpen its competitive edge, Acuutech wanted to offer clients faster, more reliable and more cost-effective cloud and hybrid computing services. To enable a new, cutting-edge software-defined storage solution, Acuutech implemented Lenovo System x3650 M5 servers – helping to boost performance and cut costs.

Acuutech is a leading IT services provider, delivering integrated platforms and services to a global client base. Headquartered in Loughton, UK, the company operates regional offices in Singapore and Houston, TX and serves over 500 clients worldwide. With over 20 years' industry experience, Acuutech specializes in Microsoft-based solutions delivered via cloud-hosted services and integrated hybrid solutions.

Philip Moss, Chief Product Officer at Acuutech, begins: "To stand out in the competitive IT services market, we need to deliver highly reliable yet cost-effective services to our clients. To offer the best services at the most attractive prices, we wanted to take advantage of innovative software-defined storage technology to lower data center costs, improve scalability and boost performance."

Leading the way

In the past, Acuutech relied on an early version of the Scale-Out File Server feature in Microsoft Windows Server 2012 to manage the data storage backbone for its cloud services.

"We are very excited to be helping clients unlock the true power of software-defined storage and all of the benefits it can bring."

—Philip Moss,
Chief Product Officer,
Acuutech



Philip Moss recalls: “Our existing software-defined storage solution was difficult to configure and maintain. Just getting to a stable configuration each time we added new nodes was a complex, long-winded process that took three or four months to complete.

“Although Scale-Out File Server was a definite improvement on our older proprietary SAN storage offering, we wanted to accelerate and simplify storage provisioning even further to give clients the capacity they need, when they need it, at the right price.”

Teaming up with Lenovo and Microsoft

A long-term Microsoft partner, Acutech is one of the first companies to have deployed Microsoft Windows Server 2016. Equipped with Microsoft Storage Spaces Direct (S2D), the latest-generation operating system offers advanced software-defined storage capabilities.

“Microsoft has worked very closely with Lenovo to build and test the S2D solution, which is why we decided to implement eight Lenovo System x3650 M5 servers as part of our backend service platform,” says Philip Moss. “We know that we can rely on the Lenovo servers to seamlessly support the S2D solution, as the server, disk and networking configurations have all been validated by Microsoft.

“Another key deciding factor was Lenovo’s excellent price point. As a disk-dense platform, the Lenovo System x3650 M5 servers represented an end-to-end, pre-configured, yet affordable, software-defined storage solution – a win-win situation.”

Powered by Intel® Xeon® E5 family of processors, Acutech’s eight-node hyperconverged configuration provides sky-high performance levels, delivering approximately 1.6 million IOPS. The cluster made up of Lenovo System x3650 M5 servers offers 400 TB of storage capacity, while Lenovo RackSwitch G8272 10Gb Ethernet switches support Remote Direct Memory Access (RDMA) for seamless connections between clients’ on-premises infrastructure and Acutech’s cloud infrastructure.

Delivering stellar services

With the S2D on Lenovo solution in place, Acutech gets all the advantages of rapid, reliable, flexible and cost-effective storage services underpinning its portfolio of cloud services.

Philip Moss comments: “S2D enables us to build storage solutions for clients faster, more easily and at a much higher scale. The end-to-end Lenovo-Microsoft solution is also helping us to drive down our data center costs. We’re getting all the capabilities and benefits of an advanced hyperconverged solution at commodity prices, enabling us to deliver high-quality services cost-effectively and stay competitive.”

Solution components

Hardware

Lenovo System x3650 M5 with
Intel® Xeon® E5 family of processors
Lenovo RackSwitch G8272 10Gb
Ethernet switches

Software

Microsoft Windows Server 2016
Datacenter Edition
Microsoft Storage Spaces Direct
(S2D) feature
Microsoft Hyper-V



Acuutech's clients are also reaping the rewards of the Lenovo-Microsoft solution, as Philip Moss explains: "One client replaced its costly and under-performing SAN storage environment with Microsoft S2D running on Lenovo, slashing their costs and boosting their storage capacity and I/O by a factor of ten."

He concludes: "We are very excited to be helping clients unlock the true power of software-defined storage and all of the benefits it can bring. With the Lenovo S2D solution, we can deliver powerful, more cost-effective services than ever before, helping to bring more clients into the age of the software-defined data center."

For more information

To learn more about Lenovo Data Center Systems solutions, contact your Lenovo Sales Representative or Lenovo Business Partner, or visit: lenovo.com/systems

For more information about Acuutech, visit www.acuutech.com or connect with @Acuutech

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