

# NEW HORIZONS SYSTEMS SOLUTIONS

## FILE MANAGEMENT

## Brocade Simplifies File Data Migration for Major IT Solutions Provider

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### Technology Challenge

Migrate terabytes of file data, including file folder structures and security permissions, to upgrade storage without impacting the production environment or users

#### Solution

Brocade® StorageX®

#### Benefits

- Migration performed in less than half the time allocated
- Transparent relocation of 16 terabytes of active business file data
- Migration of all file folder structures and security permissions
- No data loss

Much has been written about the explosive growth of enterprise file data and the resulting need for IT administrators to add larger storage systems to augment or replace legacy platforms. However, the bigger concern often occurs after these high-capacity solutions are integrated into a Storage Area Network (SAN) environment.

Administrators must move all file data residing on old devices to the new ones. This is challenging because traditional migration solutions preclude file access by users during that process. Such disruptions can impede workflows, undermine production deadlines, and impair customer service—issues that no organization wants to face.

To overcome this problem, beleaguered administrators often perform migrations at night or on weekends. Increasingly, however, there is too much data to migrate within ever-shrinking time windows. And for companies that operate on a 24 by 7 basis such as Canada's New Horizons Systems Solutions (NHSS), that approach simply does not work.

### THE NEED FOR A FASTER SOLUTION

A leading IT solutions provider, the 1,000-employee, Toronto-based firm stores 50 terabytes of data at five data centers, each powered by SANs built around Brocade 48000 Directors. The SANs support approximately 300 custom applications as well as third-party business and Web applications, Microsoft tools, and middleware solutions that continually generate data to support customers, such as Ontario Power Generation, Bruce Power, and British Energy.

Because these NHSS customers operate around the clock, so must NHSS. Therefore, when the IT company had to migrate 16 terabytes of file data from a legacy device to a new HP storage platform in anticipation of a projected 200 percent increase in file data over the next five years, it couldn't afford any downtime.

"We anticipated needing about a month to complete the migration," recalls Zia Muhammad, Senior Information Analyst, NHSS. "During that time, we had to make sure our files would remain available without any outages."

# BROCADE

The migration also had to preserve all file folder structures and security permissions, eliminating the laborious and costly need to manually reconfigure the new storage. “This was a mission-critical file transfer, and we required a solution that would be reliable, thorough, and non-disruptive to the rest of the company,” explains Muhammad.

### NO ISSUES OR DOWNTIME

Administrators at NHSS originally considered tools they used for prior file data relocations, but found them insufficient for a migration of this magnitude. “Most solutions lack multi-threading copy engines, so they move only one set of files at a time, which is too slow,” says Muhammad. “Another issue is that these products do not permit users to log in or access data when their files are relocated, which cuts into our productivity.”

As NHSS searched for a new solution, it discovered that Brocade provides leading-edge file management solutions as well as SAN systems. Foremost among Brocade file management products is Brocade StorageX, which is an integrated suite of applications that logically aggregates distributed file data across heterogeneous environments.

Brocade StorageX provides administrators with policies to automate data management and allows users to access files using logical paths. Administrators can transparently move and manage files across storage platforms without impacting user and

application access to those files—thereby increasing file data availability, optimizing storage capacity, and simplifying management. The Brocade solution also can fail over user access to replicated files at secondary sites for business continuity purposes.

“Brocade StorageX is an impressive file management resource, but what caught our attention was its migration functionality,” says Muhammad. “We found that its robust, multi-threaded replication engine can move a gigabyte of data per minute. Brocade StorageX also replicates file-level permissions and folder structures, and automatically fails over DFS links for user groups and business units to the Active Directory on the new storage without any outages. This was precisely the kind of functionality we needed.”

### A MUCH SHORTER MIGRATION THAN ANTICIPATED

Deploying Brocade StorageX, administrators began the migration at the end of December 2007. By the second week of January, the entire task was completed. It required under two weeks to complete, which was less than half the time NHSS had allotted.

“By basing our calculations on traditional migration solutions, we completely overestimated the actual time required when using Brocade StorageX,” notes Muhammad. “There isn’t another migration application that can match this solution’s performance.”

### WHY BROCADE

- Industry-leading file management solutions
- Highest-performing file migration application
- Migrations without disrupting user productivity and business file access
- Complete replications of all file data, including metadata

Moreover, the entire transfer was transparent and non-disruptive to users. Throughout the process, users routinely accessed and used their files, unaware that their data was being moved or already on the new storage system. The solution automatically updated all links, simplifying the migration for administrators.

“Brocade StorageX didn’t just meet our expectations—it exceeded them,” concludes Muhammad. “We performed a large file migration much faster than planned without outages, issues, or data loss. Brocade removed all the uncertainty and headaches from such a task. Brocade StorageX can be an indispensable file management resource for any large enterprise grappling with soaring volumes of data.”

For more information, visit [www.brocade.com](http://www.brocade.com).

#### Corporate Headquarters

San Jose, CA USA  
T: (408) 333-8000  
[info@brocade.com](mailto:info@brocade.com)

#### European Headquarters

Geneva, Switzerland  
T: +41 22 799 56 40  
[emea-info@brocade.com](mailto:emea-info@brocade.com)

#### Asia Pacific Headquarters

Singapore  
T: +65-6538-4700  
[apac-info@brocade.com](mailto:apac-info@brocade.com)

© 2008 Brocade Communications Systems, Inc. All Rights Reserved. 06/08 GA-SS-1205-00

Brocade, Fabric OS, File Lifecycle Manager, MyView, and StorageX are registered trademarks and the Brocade B-wing symbol, DCX, and SAN Health are trademarks of Brocade Communications Systems, Inc., in the United States and/or in other countries. All other brands, products, or service names are or may be trademarks or service marks of, and are used to identify, products or services of their respective owners.

Notice: This document is for informational purposes only and does not set forth any warranty, expressed or implied, concerning any equipment, equipment feature, or service offered or to be offered by Brocade. Brocade reserves the right to make changes to this document at any time, without notice, and assumes no responsibility for its use. This informational document describes features that may not be currently available. Contact a Brocade sales office for information on feature and product availability. Export of technical data contained in this document may require an export license from the United States government.



# BROCADE