

HOUSTON METHODIST AUTOMATES TO ASSURE PERFORMANCE AND COMPLIANCE WITH TURBONOMIC



SITUATION

A century old non-profit health care organization located in Houston, Texas, Houston Methodist is dedicated to excellence in research, education and patient care. Consistently ranked as “One of America’s Best Hospitals” according to U.S. News & World Report, the system is comprised of seven hospitals as well as many other health care service locations including emergency care, imaging and outpatient centers. Houston Methodist has more than 17,000 employees, over 4,500 physicians and 1,960 operating beds.

Brian Simon, Systems Architect at Houston Methodist, has been with the hospital for more than a decade, and oversees the system’s centralized data center. An all IBM® shop, including servers and storage, Simon leverages VMware vSphere® ESX 5.5™ throughout his more than 80% virtualized environment, supporting over 2,500 VMs across the entire system.

Needless to say, Simon’s environment was not a simple one, and with the health of the entire hospital system riding on it, lags in performance were simply not an option. “We were receiving a great deal of complaints particularly centered around storage performance in our test environment,” said Simon. “We needed a way to improve that performance with what we already had, without throwing more hardware at the problem.”

“Within just a few days, we saw improvements in our environment and are now automating over 2,500 VMs and 250 datastores.”

– Brian Simon, Systems Architect

“We were looking for greater control over our environment and during our search we came across Turbonomic,” said Simon. “In less than an hour it had discovered my entire environment and was already making recommendations.” Within days of the quick and easy deployment, Simon was seeing dramatic improvements, specifically in the test environment. “I fully automated and never looked back,” said Simon. “We were able instead to utilize what we already had much more efficiently.”

COMPANY

Houston Methodist

www.houstonmethodist.org

CHALLENGES

- *Inability to guarantee performance of mission-critical applications in rapidly expanding virtual environment with existing tools*
- *Inconsistent Quality of Service (QoS) and disruption of virtualized workloads*
- *Inefficient use of virtual and human resources*

TURBONOMIC SOLUTION

- *Turbonomic intelligently and automatically senses changes to application demand and adjusts infrastructure supply in real-time to improve utilization and ensure service delivery*

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Not only has Simon been able to avoid additional hardware costs, but he and his team have seen incredible returns in the time saved by not having to consistently combat performance issues within their environment “The largest impact on my day-to-day by far has been being able to get time back to work on other projects,” said Simon. “Every day, I seem to find new ways it can help make my job easier.”

CAPACITY PLANNING AND COMPLIANCE

Since deploying Turbonomic in his environment, Simon has seen incredibly positive feedback from his users on the performance of virtualized servers, further reinforcing the decision to purchase the platform. “When large requests come in, Turbonomic’s capacity planning tool helps us to ensure we are able to accommodate the resources being requested.”

Being a large health care organization, Houston Methodist has numerous compliance and privacy rules they must abide by, including but not limited to HIPAA, PCI and SOX regulations. Turbonomic automatically accounts for security and compliance policies or restraints which have been placed on a workload, leaving one less thing for Simon to spend valuable time worrying about. “We use the cluster merge with group policies to define disaster recovery datastores and ensure compliance of all workloads,” said Simon. “We know what we need not only to be appropriately prepared for the future but to be in accordance with compliance regulations all the time.”

“In an environment as complex as ours, we found that monitoring and manually taking vMotions alone were not enough. Since we automated, Turbonomic has enabled us to scale with confidence and become more proactive. It’s eliminated alerts and the break-fix loop from our operations, helping us to work smarter.”

- Brian Simon, Systems Architect, Houston Methodist

RESULTS

- *Autonomic platform drives real time performance across a diverse environment*
- *Avoided unnecessary spending on hardware*
- *Improved capacity planning for future projects*
- *Achieved and maintained compliance on workload*
- *Realized value within days of deployment*

ABOUT TURBONOMIC

Turbonomic delivers an autonomic platform where virtual and cloud environments self-manage in real-time to assure application performance. Turbonomic’s patented decision engine dynamically analyzes application demand and allocates shared resources to maintain a continuous state of application health.

Launched in 2010, Turbonomic is one of the fastest growing technology companies in the virtualization and cloud space. Turbonomic’s autonomic platform is trusted by thousands of enterprises to accelerate their adoption of virtual, cloud, and container deployments for all mission critical applications.