



HEALTHY, HAPPY EMPLOYEES

Company modernizes its storage environment with Dell EMC Microsoft Storage Spaces Direct Ready Nodes



Ewel Inc. | Consulting Services | Japan

Business needs

Ewel Inc. needed to upgrade its storage environment. The company sought a scalable, modern solution that was compatible with its current systems.

Solutions at a glance

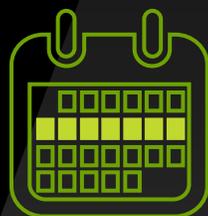
- Dell EMC Microsoft® Storage Spaces Direct Ready Nodes
- Dell EMC PowerEdge™ servers with Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors
- Microsoft Storage Spaces software-defined storage

Business results

- Integrated new and existing systems seamlessly
- Enabled single-console management
- Achieved high reliability

Ewel deployed Ready Nodes in just

ONE WEEK



The system has experienced

NO FAILURES



Cultivating healthy, happy, productive employees

Taking good care of employees is a best practice for all businesses. In Japan, Ewel Inc. helps companies achieve this goal day after day.

Ewel is in the business of cultivating employees who are happy, healthy and productive. The Tokyo-based company, founded in 2000, provides consulting services focused on corporate healthcare and welfare, including employee insurance programs and cafeteria benefit plans for employees and their families.

This attention to the wellbeing of employees is particularly important in Japan, which is experiencing a declining birthrate and an aging population. When companies take good care of their people, they can strengthen employee recruitment and retention and improve the productivity of their workforce. It all adds up to more loyal, harder-working employees.

Data center modernization

When it came time to modernize the company's data center infrastructure, Ewel's IT leaders looked for a solution that was compatible with the Microsoft Hyper-V hypervisor and the company's existing Windows 2008 architecture, so they could seamlessly consolidate and integrate the new and existing systems. In addition, they wanted a scalable solution that

could grow with the company, which now has more than 1,000 employees. And they wanted the latest technology advances, including the latest version of Windows Server 2016, so they could use the solution for many years.

Ewel found an ideal solution to its data center modernization needs in the form of the Dell EMC Microsoft Storage Spaces Direct Ready Nodes, which the company deployed in 2017.

Microsoft Storage Spaces Direct, known informally as S2D, uses industry-standard servers with local-attached drives to create highly available, highly scalable software-defined storage (SDS) at a fraction of the cost of traditional SAN or NAS arrays. Its converged or hyper-converged architecture simplifies procurement and deployment, while features such as caching, storage tiers and erasure coding, together with hardware innovations such as RDMA networking and NVMe drives, deliver unrivaled efficiency and performance.

Dell EMC Microsoft Storage Spaces Direct Ready Nodes simplify and accelerate the deployment of S2D. The Ready Nodes are optimally configured with the required amount of CPU, memory, network, I/O controllers and storage (SSDs, HDDs or flash devices). They give IT leaders the confidence and convenience that comes with preconfigured, tested and certified configurations designed for Storage Spaces Direct and backed by world-class support delivered by Dell EMC, which serves as the single point of contact for the entire Ready Solution.

Storage Spaces Direct Ready Nodes are built on Dell EMC PowerEdge™ servers with Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors. These servers provide the compute power and the storage density Ewel needs to take full advantage of the benefits of Storage Spaces Direct and the advanced capabilities for the software-defined data center in Windows Server 2016.



Realizing the benefits of S2D and Ready Nodes

Ewel deployed its new Dell EMC Microsoft Storage Spaces Direct Ready Nodes in 2017. The company's IT administrators completed the migration of their existing Windows 2008 environment to S2D in just one week's time, without any impact to existing users. This rapid deployment was enabled by the Ready Nodes model and its preconfigured, tested and certified configurations for S2D.

Today, the company is using its Storage Spaces Direct Ready Nodes to run intranet, database and email applications serving all of its employees. The system comprises four S2D nodes and a backup server, all managed from a single Microsoft System Center console.

The software-defined storage system has proven to be a reliable, stable environment, according to the company's IT leaders. In an interview with Dell EMC conducted in April 2018, they said they had experienced no failures or failovers with the system, which went into production in the fall of 2017. They also said they were very satisfied with the migration of their existing Windows 2008 environment into the Storage Spaces Direct Ready Nodes, a process they described as "seamless."



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