

# MEEI CASE STUDY



## *Presidio Delivers Cost-Saving Server Virtualization & Storage Area Network*

### PROJECT FACTS

- VMware virtualization software allowed more than 30 servers to be eliminated
- MEEI was able to avoid purchasing more UPS equipment to support its power needs
- Time to launch new apps has been reduced from several days to only a couple of hours
- The new EMC Clariion storage area network supports 14 terabytes of MEEI data

Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary (MEEI) is an international leader in ophthalmology and otolaryngology research and a teaching partner of Harvard Medical School. Boston-based MEEI currently has more than 1,200 employees. In 2005, MEEI performed more than 20,000 surgical procedures, while outpatient and emergency room visits combined exceeded 200,000 visits. The amount of data required to maintain patient records, radiology images, medical research, and other critical operating information for a medical institution of this size is staggering. The MEEI IT team currently manages approximately 14 terabytes of data.

“The need for computing resources and data storage is growing rapidly in the MEEI IT environment,” said Chong Cho, Senior Network Engineer. “We were running out of space in our data center, and our uninterruptible power supply resources could not support adding any significant number of additional servers to our current environment.”

### THE IMPLEMENTATION

With the help of Presidio Networked Solutions (Presidio), MEEI was able to conduct a comprehensive assessment of its server and storage environment. The assessment found that several servers in the environment were being used to run only one non-mission-critical application per server. This resulted in low CPU utilization on many servers. MEEI does not have large amounts of space available to expand its data center, and the sub-optimal configuration wasted power and valuable rack space.

Presidio and MEEI discussed the benefits offered by consolidating server resources through the use of VMware Virtualization software. After careful consideration, MEEI decided to implement phase one of a server consolidation strategy using VMware. Phase one consisted of the consolidation of all non-mission-critical applications in the environment. Phase two would include the consolidation of development platforms, and the final phase would address consolidation of mission-critical applications into a virtual machine environment. The impact of phase one was significant for MEEI; more than 30 Windows® servers were eliminated. “The consolidation of our non-critical applications went smoothly,” said Cho. “The project had no impact on the end-users that we serve, but the impact on our IT environment has been a significant savings in time to manage the environment and money needed to operate our growing data center.”

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### **BENEFITS**

The time for MEEI to deploy new applications has been reduced from several days to less than two hours. Adding new applications no longer requires the provisioning of new hardware, saving time, money, and data center resources. The results of phase one have been positive, and MEEI is currently preparing to move to phase two of the project.

In addition to the server virtualization effort, MEEI and Presidio installed an EMC Clariion storage area network. Prior to the implementation of the new SAN, not all of the data in the MEEI environment was attached to the network. This made data management cumbersome and hindered the access to data for network users.

Large image files from the radiology department account for a substantial amount of the data stored and managed by the MEEI IT team. The EMC SAN allows MEEI to keep 14 tera-bytes of critical data safe, online, and accessible to employees throughout the organization. The new storage solution provides for better management of MEEI data. The backup and recovery process was made more comprehensive and efficient. With the Clariion SAN in place, MEEI is looking at advanced data management solutions such as disk-to-disk backup to further reduce data management burdens. “The end result of this virtualization and storage project is that MEEI has strengthened its systems and storage infrastructure and will save a lot of money in the near future,” concluded Cho.

### **PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

The Total Success Methodology is based on the Project Management Institute’s Project Management Body of Knowledge, the world’s most comprehensive quality project management practice. Presidio manages every IT project through five key stages: plan, design, integrate, operate and optimize. Every project, no matter how large or small, is carefully guided through these five stages and is overseen by a dedicated, professional project manager.

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