

Case Study

POINT Storage Manager St. Augustinus Hospital



St. Augustinus Hospital (St. Augustinus-Klinik) near Düsseldorf implemented a Tiered Storage Architecture using PoINT Storage Manager Software. The company is now able to use the Primary Storage more efficiently by migrating inactive data to an Archive Tier.

All data are permanently accessible using the NetApp ON-TAP operating system. Now St. Augustinus Hospital saves costs and time, especially by the reduced backup data volume of Primary Storage.

Challenge

- Migration of inactive Files from a NetApp MetroCluster to a NetApp FAS SATA RAID based system
- Integration of the existing Quantum LTO Library to Archive and Replicate PACS Data

Solution - PoINT Storage Manager

- PoINT Storage Manager was used to implement a 3-tiered storage concept
- Automatic, rule-based migration and archiving of inactive files to secondary storage (NetApp FAS and Quantum LTO Library)
- Replication of archived files to LTO media
- Files needed regularly are automatically migrated back from the NetApp FAS system to the NetApp MetroCluster system
- The "Pass Through" functionality in PoINT Storage Manager prevents inactive files inadvertently being restored to the MetroCluster

Benefits for St. Augustinus Hospital

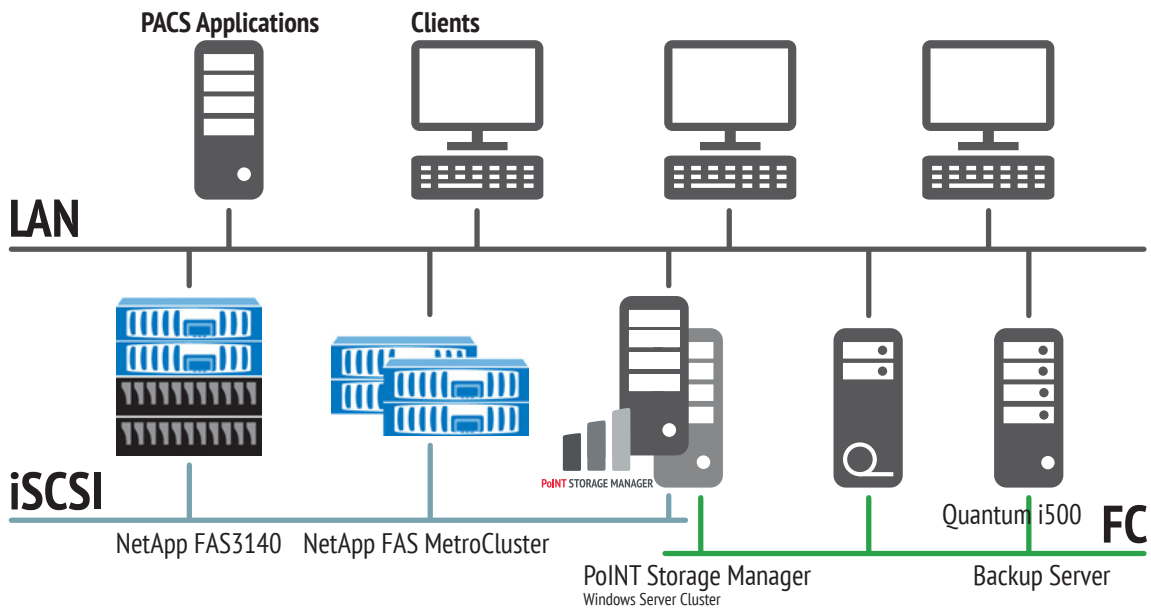
- Efficient use of primary storage by migrating inactive data to the lower cost storage tier
- Transparent access of archived data through the NetApp ONTAP file system
- Cost and time savings through reduced data volume and backup time of the primary storage
- Meet compliance requirements through the archives write once file structure
- Virtualization of storage hardware through PoINT VFS

About St. Augustinus Hospital


The St. Augustinus Hospital is one of the most successful company of healthcare and social facilities in the German region Niederrhein. Their main focus is in the fields of Somatic, Psychiatry, Elderly and Handicapped Aid.

The corporate group includes 18 facilities:

hospitals, clinics, psychiatrics, versatile facilities for handicapped persons as well as for the elderly. Today almost 4,200 employees take care about 47,000 patients stationary and nearly 90,000 patient ambulant.



St. Augustinus Hospital is one of the most successful operations of healthcare and social facilities in the German region Niederrhein. Their IT group focused on the NetApp FAS Storage solution with corresponding MetroCluster configuration. Constantly rising data volumes resulted in the requirement to transparently transfer inactive data (50 TB) from the high cost, high-performance redundant MetroCluster system to less expensive storage on a SATA RAID based NetApp FAS system.

 "We have evaluated the products from different manufacturers and decided on the software solution from PoINT Software & Systems, because it offers a comprehensive approach which fulfills all requirements and is recommended by NetApp." Sulik stated as he explained his decision.

In order to provide additional security the archived data will automatically be replicated to their existing Quantum i500 LTO Tape library. The library had previously been used only for backup purposes and had adequate capacity to additionally be utilized for the archiving.

The Manager of the division system integration, Christoph Sulik, was assigned to implement a solution which meets these requirements by realizing a Tiered Storage Architecture.

A key factor in the decision to select PoINT Storage Manager was the integrated support of the Quantum i500 LTO Tape Library. An additional advantage of the solution from PoINT Software & Systems is the unique "Pass Through" functionality of this Software, which is not available in any of the competitive products considered. In daily work (e.g. diagnostic findings) the application usually requires only certain data from a file (e.g. just the therapy and examination data), which is a small component of the complete file. To meet the requirements of the hospital, the requested file was migrated to the Archive Tier, therefore the file was not restored to the Primary Storage.

The "Pass Through" architecture of PoINT Storage Manager meets this requirement by sending the requested blocks directly to the application and does not restore them on the Primary Storage. Thus the Primary Storage is not unnecessarily loaded and the applications work much more efficiently, as no time is wasted for the file copying.

The system stability had been secured by the Clustering

function of PoINT Storage Manager which was installed using a Windows Server Cluster. The installation and the beginning of the test phase were realized in less than one day. Additional minor custom-specific requirements which arose in the test phase were implemented promptly by PoINT.



Sulik stated, "Not only the product features of PoINT, but also the excellent support and the willingness to provide project-specific extensions for our requirements have confirmed our choice."

The St. Augustinus Hospital is able to significantly reduce its storage cost by implementing the Tiered Storage Architecture of PoINT Storage Manager. Now the NetApp MetroCluster systems can be used more efficiently, and by integrating the existing tape library, additionally the compliance can be fulfilled.

About PoINT

PoINT Software & Systems GmbH is specialized in the development of software products and system solutions for storage and management of data using all available mass storage technologies like hard disk, magnetic tape, optical media, object store and cloud storage. PoINT works jointly together with leading hardware manufacturers. Thus PoINT can offer an early support of innovative storage technologies. Besides these complete solutions PoINT also offers its know-how as toolkits, which can be easily integrated in other applications by the programming interface.

High flexibility, observance of the workflow and policy-based data management allow an efficient usage of hardware and thus help to reduce costs and problems caused by data growth.

Additional information and a trial version of the software are available at www.point.de.