



The Scottish Agricultural College selects Tecnica & SANsymphony-V to optimise and harvest the NAS services inbuilt within their Microsoft Windows Server 2008 R2 Platform

Tecnica is pleased to announce the recent deployment of a SANsymphony-V solution for The Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) in Edinburgh. As a leading Scottish IT Solution Company we have years of experience providing IT solutions for the Public and Private sector and were therefore delighted to be given the opportunity to provide SAC with the perfect solution for their requirements.

Tecnica recommended and configured the next generation of DataCore's software, SANsymphony-V across 3 nodes; one within SAC's main Edinburgh campus and the other two some 8 miles away within the College's Research and Data Centre campus. The integrated combination of DataCore and Microsoft has decreased the College's reliance on costly hardware solutions and added a new level of fault tolerance to clustered NFS/CIFS file sharing.

The key driver for change for the College came in Autumn 2010 when SACs existing environment came to end of life; moving from a complex and costly SUN infrastructure in favour of a Microsoft Windows based platform, whilst consolidating storage and eliminating bottlenecks and disruptions. They commenced the search for alternatives and Tecnica Ltd responded with a DataCore software based solution that incurred a significantly lower cost and ongoing capital outlay and recognised the importance of a software based solution.

SAC now employs mirrored copies of the SANsymphony-V software layered beneath clustered file shares (NAS) integral to Windows Servers 2008 Enterprise. SAC can now employ and reutilise any standard storage device for disk space, ranging from standard hard drives to existing external disk arrays offered by the popular storage systems vendors. With the solution, splitting the file share cluster remains across two machines, while the DataCore software runs on two separate servers dedicated to block storage virtualisation :-

"The combined software layer provides the performance and functionality we require to effectively manage our current and future data requirements and has removed complexity, cost and support skills exposure from our storage infrastructure"

Ronnie McIntyre, IS Infrastructure & Operations Manager, SAC

"Some of the features that attracted us to SANsymphony-V were the transparency and ease of management which it offered along with the flexibility of design configuration to allow us to build a solution that would match our performance and resilience requirements. As with many organisations we required an agile solution to be able to meet the demands of the business whether generated through strategic / legislative requirements or market opportunities." - Peter Gowler, Infrastructure Systems Architect, SAC

"What Tecnica and the SAC IT team have achieved here is what data centre managers have long been seeking – a simple, cost effective way to address potential single points of failures in their vital NFS/CIFS files shares. Previously, SAC's choice would have been restricted to either picking from a few specialty devices that provided the needed redundancy at a steep price, or take the risk that a storage-related disruption would cripple their entire infrastructure."

Keith Joseph, Regional Manager, DataCore Software