

Eindhoven University of Technology Replaces CapEx Storage with OpEx

The Eindhoven University of Technology chose Zadara to provide elastic, scalable storage services to over 300 VMWare servers.

The Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e) was originally founded as the Technische Hogeschool Eindhoven in 1956 by the Dutch government. It is located on its own campus in the center of Eindhoven and is currently home to about 255 professors, 10,100 students, 243 Ph.D. graduates, 1,250 foreign students and 3,145 regular employees. Yearly, the Eindhoven University of Technology produces almost 3,000 scientific publications, 140 PhD awards, and 40 patents.



Company Summary

Eindhoven University of Technology is a research university specializing in engineering science and technology.

10,100

students

3,145

employees

255

professors

Separate storage resources for each department was inefficient.

As the storage needs of the university grew, each department procured, deployed and managed their own storage resources. The inefficiencies of having separate storage arrays in data closets throughout the TU/e campus became very apparent. Each storage array needed to be managed and maintained separately. Devices were overprovisioned with excess unused capacity. A change was clearly needed. The decision was made to move to a centralized storage architecture to provide storage services, as needed, to the entire university.

TU/e seeks a more efficient storage solution.

TU/e published a European tender aimed at finding a storage solution that would maximize customer satisfaction, provide guarantees for data availability, safety and integrity – and would dramatically reduce the resources needed to maintain and configure the solution at efficient costs.

The tender process was designed to challenge suppliers to apply their expertise and experience to help TU/e reach its goals. Karin van der Esch, Strategic purchaser said, “We always aim to offer suppliers the opportunity to showcase their expertise.” After completing their due-diligence by evaluating proposals from each of the leading storage providers, TU/e chose Zadara as their storage partner. As Huub De Hesselle, Strategy & Policy Advisor for TU/e described, “Once we reviewed the solutions in our tender, Zadara offered the best fit.”



“With Zadara we have increased our agility, reduced costs, improved data security, and enhanced our user satisfaction.”

Thieu Mennen,
Manger Back Office,
TU/e

Zadara’s solution offered the following key benefits: 1) replaced CapEx storage with OpEx storage; 2) provided scalable, elastic storage services to TU/e and TU/e researchers; 3) reduced the maintenance overhead; and, 4) ensured data availability and integrity through remote mirroring.

TU/e wanted to leverage the scalability and economic benefits of storage-as-a-service while maintaining their storage within their sustainable Tier-4 data center. Zadara deployed on premises was a perfect solution for TU/e, as it allowed TU/e to keep all of their storage on site within their own data center, while enjoying the economic benefits of a true storage-as-a-service solution.

TU/e also found Zadara’s resource isolation features particularly valuable. Because each department is assigned their own storage resources, heavy usage by one department will never impact the performance of another department.

Consolidating the storage devices spread throughout the campus provides significant benefits. Users of Zadara benefit from elastic and scalable storage, reduced cost, improved data security, increased productivity, and enhanced overall customer satisfaction.

Since TU/e consolidated their data center activities in 2015, the need arose to reassess their comprehensive data protection and disaster recovery process. TU/e worked closely with Zadara to allow remote replication of their primary data. Through the use of Zadara’s enterprise data protection features, TU/e is able to ensure the integrity and availability of their data.



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