Tintri IntelliFlash™ HD-Series, the Backbone of Boulder County, Colorado

IntelliFlash

The Challenge: Find a Storage Solution that Can Support 300,000 Residents

For the IT team of Boulder County, every day is a heroic endeavor. The truth of the matter is that they don't just serve their 2,500 fellow employees – which is already a tough task – they also serve more than 300,000 county residents. It's a lot to handle, but the team always rises to the occasion.

"We operate under a simple philosophy: your government is only as good as its IT," said John Labone, senior systems administrator for Boulder County, Colorado. "A high quality of life depends on good local government, and IT is definitely an enabler of that."

A while back, the county's long-standing storage arrays from a competitor were starting to cause serious disruptions in the workplace, and consequently, for constituents themselves. "The arrays worked fine at first, but a couple of summers ago they started getting long in the tooth. Suddenly, we were hit all the time with rampant disk failures and overheating issues due to our setup not being able to handle our workloads," said Labone. "It's not my idea of a great time to drop everything and rebuild air exchange systems from scratch because our storage couldn't handle its primary functions."

Boulder County needed a storage solution that could handle their databases, virtual machines, file systems, and Microsoft Exchange Servers.

The Solution: Tintri IntelliFlash HD-Series

Labone and his team knew that they needed to find a replacement. Given their experiences with their previous array, they wanted to proceed carefully and investigated many solutions available. "We conducted our search for more than a year and half. We really wanted to get things right for the county. We were looking for an array that could help us shrink our data center footprint and provide enough raw storage so that we don't have to buy storage every two or three years said Labone. "We know there is a lot of fluff out there, and my team is allergic to marketing. We wanted to make sure we found the real deal, something that could handle our county's needs, and then some."

The Boulder County IT team investigated virtually every vendor imaginable. "Research was by far the biggest challenge for us. We fielded every phone call, talked to every salesperson, and consulted all of our industry colleagues," said Labone. "The Tegile [now Tintri] team was the only team who came back with exactly what we were looking for: all-flash arrays that could meet our performance and capacity needs, and at a reasonable cost. It sounds simple, but you'd be surprised as to just how hard it is for vendors to deliver on this premise. Once we found the IntelliFlash product portfolio, things were extremely easy."

IntelliFlash HD-Series combines innovations in flash management, data persistence, and data management to deliver unprecedented levels of performance, data consolidation, simplicity, and economics. With IntelliFlash HD-Series, Boulder County can consolidate virtually all its workloads and data onto a single system to achieve the best balance of performance and economics at scale.

The Results: Happy Customers and Cost Savings

For Labone and his team, the IntelliFlash HD-Series has made a huge impact on their day-to-day operations. "We basically have what feels like zero latency now," said Labone. "We don't hear a peep from our users about lag times, storage issues, or anything else that falls under our purview, which is a good thing. In IT, no news is good news. Complaints are virtually non-existent now."

Challenges

- Boulder County needed a storage system that could handle the daily database and virtual machine demands of more than 2,500 employees and 300,000 constituents

Solution

- Tintri IntelliFlash HD-Series

Results

- Improved experience for constituents and public officials made possible by reduced latency

- 43% data reduction rate, supporting data growth and file system expansion without extra costs

- 47% maintenance cost savings, enabling more strategic flexibility in deploying and maintaining infrastructure

- 92% decrease in required rack space, significantly reduced cooling expense

Tintri
Intelligent Infrastructure

The speed of the IntelliFlash system is also making things easier on the backend for Boulder's team as well. "It used to take us 40 minutes to set up a single LUN. I timed it the other day – it takes just seven minutes now."

Since deploying the IntelliFlash HD-Series, Boulder County has also seen impressive data reduction rates, and they have shrunken their physical footprint to boot. "With IntelliFlash, everything is reduced, both physically and digitally," said Labone. "We're running a killer data reduction rate of 43 percent, and on top of that, we've shrunken our data center footprint from 72RU to just 6RU. It's hard to beat that."

The county has also been extremely pleased with the cost savings that IntelliFlash HD-Series brings to the table. "We calculated it out, and we're saving 47 percent when compared to what we'd be paying for in terms of maintenance from the other vendors we were looking at," said Labone.

"Everything with Tegile [now Tintri] has been a breeze. The sales process, the installation, and the maintenance. We're glad they have our backs, and we plan to purchase more IntelliFlash arrays in the future."

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John Labone, Senior Systems Administrator for Boulder County, Colorado

Experience Different! For more information on how Tintri IntelliFlash can turbo-charge your business success through a simple, Intelligent Infrastructure, visit tintri.com/intelliflash.

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@tintri | **www.tintri.com** | **info@tintri.com**

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