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20 Most Promising Storage Solution Providers - 2019

The growing influx of information in today's digital world has set the stage for enterprises to embrace latest technologies that optimize the abundance of data for discrete business objectives. Companies now acknowledge that an optimal, efficient, and sensible way to manage big data can play a crucial role in enhancing their business success. Cheaper and denser flash/solid-state drives (SSDs), NVMe, AI, machine learning, and multi-cloud data management are more than just buzz words in the storage landscape that empower organizations to usher in efficient orchestration of business operations.

Plummeting prices of NAND flash is consequently reducing SSD costs, as flash chips represent the bulk of the cost of an SSD, enabling manufacturers to develop denser storage units for the same cost as that of lower capacity drives. Alongside, manufacturers are gradually

shifting from the 32 and 64-layer flash to the 96-layer 3D flash, in order to offer higher storage capacity in the physical footprint of a standard SSD. Along similar lines, NVMe provides the ability to share flash storage among multiple server racks for organizations with large database deployments and extends direct memory access capabilities over a switched fabric to create shared storage.

At the confluence of these advancements and as business requirements and goals differ, it can be cumbersome for organizations to select the right solution vendors from this crowd. To help them carry out this task with utmost ease, a distinguished panel of CEOs, CIOs, VCs, industry analysts, and CIOReview's editorial board has narrowed down the selection to a final 20.

We present to you the "20 Most Promising Storage Solution Providers - 2019."



Company:
AGILESTORAGE

Description:
AGILESTORAGE delivers storage appliances that satisfy clients' highest performance requirements and toughest budgetary restrictions, while bringing future readiness to their IT infrastructures

Key Person:
Christof Zihlmann
CEO

Website:
agile-storage.com

AGILESTORAGE

Re-Engineering Data Storage

It is imperative for businesses to develop and retain agile, predictive, timeless, and future-ready IT infrastructures while they strive to deal with insatiable data storage demands. The landscape has changed drastically as organizations struggling with storing trillions of structured and unstructured data have begun exploring next-generation data storage alternatives that are efficient, scalable and sustainable, allow effortless management of workloads, while also providing agility and flexibility for supporting business changes. The conventional method—also highly inefficient, expensive, and unmanageable—of adding more physical storage doesn't work anymore. According to Christof Zihlmann, CEO of AGILESTORAGE, "It is time to rethink storage." In line with that viewpoint, Zihlmann leads his team at AGILESTORAGE, a workload-agnostic storage company to transform data storage into a simple utility with on-premise, hybrid, and multi-cloud infrastructures.

In an ambitious bid to empower enterprises with the highest storage agility, AGILESTORAGE has developed the first real storage hypervisor platform—workload agnostic storage platform (WASP)—to help enterprises achieve agility through flexible, scalable, efficient, and sustainable storage infrastructures for their data over the cloud. WASP—fortified with containerized multitenant virtual storage management

(VSM) architecture—enables a giant leap toward agility and allows its clients to choose their preferred cloud storage provider—on-premise or hybrid cloud—that aligns with their data storage strategy. AGILESTORAGE has embedded flexibility into the DNA of WASP to empower enterprises of any size with superior storage agility to accelerate digital transformation and embrace the future of cloud data storage. "We refine the way data is being stored to increase the utilization and performance numbers for our clients with guaranteed storage performance down at the application states Zihlmann.

Besides delivering optimal storage performance, WASP is based on data-centric storage architecture that delivers the simplicity of storage while surpassing cost efficiency. WASP's centralized management framework allows clients to effortlessly create VSM with a comprehensive web-based graphical user interface (GUI), and transparent VSM migration. Built on the foundation of hardware as a resource supplier, AGILESTORAGE's platform makes it possible for the data storage infrastructure to be accurately sliced in terms of performance, capacity, latency, and additional clients' requirements without resource wastage. As Zihlmann describes it, "The ability of our platform to scale seamlessly, be it in terms of IOPS and throughput performance, and capacity from a low-level system up to multi-terabyte enterprise deployments, without latency or interruptions gives us the competitive edge."

That being said, AGILESTORAGE diligently tailors its storage platform to a spectrum of clients' storage and network infrastructure needs and improves their business integrity. The robustness of the company's solution was on full display when the University of Bern approached AGILESTORAGE to enhance their microscopic imaging of tissue samples. The university's microscopes produced 2000 images per minute at a resolution of 2048x2048 and needed a 40x zooming feature to study the tissues closely in each of the images. However, each microscope required large data streams to facilitate a 40x zooming capability. In response to this requirement, AGILESTORAGE constructed an environment where the data streams from the camera of a microscope were automatically stored within high-performance SSD, and then copied to another source. This was achieved with a relatively small configuration of 750-850 Mbps, and the university was able to scale up to 40-50 microscopes simultaneously with its existing data storage infrastructure. "We fit our solution into the clients' ecosystems, thus eliminating the need to modify their existing infrastructures or alter their operations," adds Zihlmann.

With similar stories highlighting its competency, AGILESTORAGE is all set to launch new functionalities and the latest release of its WASP operating system to help users harness the full potential of this containerized storage platform. The company has developed a centralized management interface that accommodates multiple physical deployments of the platform across the globe, all on a single pane. This interactive management framework bolstered by a delegated administration concept offers service providers and enterprises and their subsidiaries a holistic worldwide view of distributed storage deployments. In a nutshell, AGILESTORAGE is revolutionizing storage infrastructures with effortless management of workloads through the cloud with cutting-edge data protection. **CR**



Christof Zihlmann