

# Global Manufacturing Company Leverages the Cloud to Prepare for Future Growth



## Problem:

- Limited resources to manage its own equipment.
- Equipment was coming off lease.
- Its high availability solutions provider was re-locating data centers
- Needed to focus on higher level issues.

## Solution:

- Move its infrastructure to the cloud.



## The Company

Xerium Technologies, Inc. is a leading global manufacturer and supplier of specially engineered consumable products used primarily in the production of paper, paperboard, and specific industrial applications. With an extensive global footprint of 28 manufacturing facilities in 12 countries, Xerium has approximately 3,200 employees worldwide.

## The Problem

The IT team at Xerium was faced with two colliding challenges. First, it was managing its own equipment, which included two racks of servers and a storage area network in a co-location facility in Warwick, R.I., and its equipment was coming off lease. At the same time, its high availability solutions provider was re-locating data centers. “We had to make a time-critical decision on what to do next,” said Norm Sturdevant, VP of IT at Xerium.

## The Solution

“We have a cloud strategy at Xerium, and as part of that strategy we have had plans to move to an Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) model,” explained Sturdevant. “The main reason to move our infrastructure to the cloud is that we are pretty thin on resources and have a lot of projects going on. Moving to the IaaS model was driven by the desire to reduce our workload and focus our attention on the higher level issues, such as our operating systems, applications, and data warehouse.”

Xerium turned to its trusted technology advisors and solutions providers at ABC Services and Secure Infrastructure & Services (SI&S) to transition its infrastructure to the cloud. “We had lots of confidence in the technical teams at both companies. We’ve been working with them for a long time,” added Sturdevant. “The migration process worked really well. Other than being time consuming because of the volume of data we were moving, it was relatively easy to take our DR images to the new data center and restore them on the new machines. Once we had the circuits in place and running the way we wanted them to and with the right amount of bandwidth, the migration went like clockwork.”

The teams at ABC Services and SlaS worked with the Xerium IT team to migrate approximately 150 virtualized servers and seven physical machines onto an IBM Pureflex platform hosted in a Savvis data center in Waltham, Mass. SlaS used Veeam software to migrate the virtual machines and Veeam is also being used for Xerium's backups.

## The Results

There were a number of key benefits that Sturdevant and Doug Hampshire, project manager at Xerium, mentioned as a result of moving the company's infrastructure to the cloud.

### ▪ Cost Savings.

They get more for less. For approximately the same cost, Xerium is getting more capacity and a higher level of performance on its machines.

### ▪ Saving Time.

The IT team no longer needs to pay attention to installing, maintaining or purchasing new equipment.

### ▪ Scalability.

Capacity can easily be increased at any point in time allowing the company to expand quickly if needed.

### ▪ Expertise.

By relying on the expertise of ABC Services and SlaS, Xerium can focus on more strategic initiatives.

"It really works to our benefit, because we are a really fragmented company that's trying to become global," explained Sturdevant. "We have a global presence in all the regions, but are now focused on making it a global company versus a bunch of regional entities. As a result, there have been new demands on Doug's time when it comes to network integration and servers for global systems. Being able to rely on ABC Services and SlaS to ensure our infrastructure technology is operating at optimal levels has been a really good thing. We have confidence in them to oversee the data center operations and are able to free up more of Doug's time enabling us to do more without hiring additional staff."

Hampshire concluded, "At the end of the day, it really freed up a lot of my time and mental energy that was required to manage the hardware. I can focus on other areas, which is very important as we continue to expand globally."

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