

### CHALLENGE

The SAN solution at SFK Leblanc was hindering applications from running quickly, and capacity was limited. By implementing a new global ERP solution, it was clear that the storage solution needed to be replaced with a new generation of storage that supported virtualisation.

### SOLUTION

SFK Leblanc chose Tintri VM-Aware Storage from RanTek. The solution is fast and agile, has a built-in flash disk, which gives it high performance, can be scaled to over 50 TB, and is above all, intelligent. This means that it can predict any bottlenecks in the system.

### RESULT

Tintri uses the ultra-fast flash disks as opposed to the old SAN solution, so that heavy data and large applications are able to run quickly. SFK Leblanc spends minimum time on administration and configuration, has gained a solid solution that supports the many virtual servers, and can handle the company's storage needs for many years to come.

## New virtual storage platform eliminates bottlenecks in SFK Leblanc's infrastructure

*Industry company SFK Leblanc has swapped its traditional SAN solution for an intelligent storage platform that supports the company's virtual servers. The Tintri VM-Aware Storage, which represents a new generation of storage, not only makes SFK Leblanc's applications run faster, but also provides maximum use of capacity and has a built-in intelligence that predicts any bottlenecks in the system.*

"We are very aware of how our infrastructure performs. It has to be dynamic and must provide fast access to our systems. It is essential for us to run a competitive business. A bottleneck in just one place affects the performance of the entire infrastructure. We wanted to put an end to it", says Jan Meltesen, Group IT Manager, SFK Leblanc.

SFK Leblanc is a high-tech industry company that develops total solutions for abattoir production processes all over the world. The intelligent equipment provides customers with higher profits because it can automate and optimise processes from A-Z. Better meat cutting means more steaks and less minced meat, low water consumption reduces energy bills, and individual workstations eliminate back pain among employees.

### Fast access to heavy files

Meat consumption is increasing worldwide, and abattoirs are modernising their production facilities to keep up with demand. SFK Leblanc sells project solutions globally and is among the three biggest suppliers in the world. To prepare the company for the future, SFK Leblanc is in the full process of implementing a growth strategy to its IT systems across production facilities in Denmark, Holland, Canada and China, as well as sales locations in the US, Russia and Thailand. Their IT platform needs to be standardised and strengthened for further growth.

"We are constantly updating our IT systems, but when it came to developing our ERP solution, it was clear that we had to replace the old storage platform with a new, more intelligent solution. Our employees must be able to access data quickly – wherever and whenever. This applies both to our heavy design and 3D drawing databases and to our applications, which have to run quickly so that all of our employees around the world can work effectively. We used to just insert a new drawer in the storage rack as required. But we needed to go up a gear and required even higher capacity and performance", says Jan Meltesen.

### Supporting virtualisation is the highest requirement

SFK Leblanc wanted an agile, fast and future-proof storage solution with a high degree of utilisation and significantly less administration. It also had to support virtualisation. That was the highest requirement of all.

"Development is heading towards IT systems becoming more fluid and interconnected with several in-built functionalities and less administration for users. Furthermore, nearly all servers are virtual, so our next storage solution had to support this", he says.

They chose Tintri VM-Aware Storage, sold by RanTek.

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### **Optimum space and access**

"Tintri stood out from the crowd with its many intelligent functions. For example, all of our data is stored in a large pool that works with all types of servers, virtualisation platforms and applications. This means that we can retrieve data and run applications far more quickly than before. The in-built flash disks increase the system's overall performance, and floor space is maximised. Data is placed where it is most convenient, and on the media that is quickest to access. And thanks to capacity compression, we have over 50 TB available," says Jan.

"And then there's the important part, which is that we can now see whether it's the storage boxes, the hosts or the networks that are reducing speed and creating bottlenecks in our infrastructure. That's knowledge we didn't have access to before. The integrated ground-breaking technology significantly increases our storage solution. The 'zero management' promise is fully realised. We no longer need to use resources on administrating and configuring storage. We simply set up and shut down virtual machines in the VMware environment," he says.

### **Ahead of the competition**

According to Jan Meltesen, SFK Leblanc looked at other solutions from well-known suppliers, but Tintri was the clear winner:

"The solution is several paces ahead of the competitors on the market, so it was an easy decision to make. We also have complete confidence in Rantek, who recommended the solution to us. They have an in-depth knowledge of our business because they are our managed service provider on Riverbed WAN optimisation. They have an eye for intelligent solutions, which create value for the customer and they understand our needs and challenges. That's why we also listened when they recommended that we try a new, untraditional solution", he said.

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SFK Leblanc tested the storage solution from Tintri on their own installations before buying, with impressive results.

"It is incredible that you can just test a solution on your own installations. With this 'try and buy' agreement, we learnt that the solution was easy to install, as promised. It worked well on our installations, despite at the time only having a 1 Gbit network connection, and the solution required a 10 Gbit connection. We experienced the same value in the intelligent functions and flash disks", says Jan.

Today, SFK Leblanc's 70 virtual servers have been transferred to the Tintri box, and the old, cumbersome SAN solution has gone. This reduces both physical space in the data centre and energy consumption.