

Hyper-convergence for Distributed Data Centers

Product Spotlight: Atlantis



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The performance and capacity capabilities of production storage are increasing to meet the demands of the virtualized data center. These systems can now scale to support highly dense virtual machine populations and the never-ending demand for more storage capacity. Data protection software is keeping pace with features like changed block backups and in-place recovery, but for these new features to be fully realized requires that the data protection storage also keeps pace. Many are woefully falling behind.

The Disk Backup Appliance Problem

Hyper-converged architectures (HCA) could be an ideal solution for enterprises looking to equip their distributed data centers. HCA has the potential to consolidate the remote IT needs to a few servers. These distributed data centers typically come in two forms; either remote office/branch offices (ROBO) with no IT staff but good WAN connectivity, or micro-data centers with limited IT staff and bad WAN connectivity. What these data centers have in common are the IT challenges that need to be overcome. The distributed data center needs to be easy to operate, remotely managed, protected and cost-effective. The problem is that while HCA can provide consolidation, many don't meet the challenges that distributed data centers create. Atlantis Computing recently announced a new hyper-converged solution, the HyperScale CX-4, for distributed data centers specifically designed to address these challenges.

Keep it Simple

The first step is to keep the implementation and support of the remote HCA simple. The Atlantis CX-4 is pre-configured with the organization's networking setting. Also, there is no need for an external switch. A 10Gbe crossover cable connects the two nodes. Management of multiple offices is done remotely from the organization's primary data center. Finally, Atlantis is the single point of support for both hardware and software.

Protected

The CX-4 solves the other distributed data center problem: how to protect remote data. First, the CX-4 nodes are mirrored. If one of the remote nodes fail the other takes over with no loss of data or downtime. The CX-4 also leverages Atlantis' replication software to replicate data from the remote sites to the primary data center, backing it up with the organization's backup solution. If the entire remote site fails, the system routes users to their data at the primary data center almost instantly and with little loss of data.

Cost Effective

The CX-4 is also affordable, coming in at \$43k for a starter configuration including three years of 24x7x365 support. It is also upgradeable to the CX-12. As the organization grows, it can expand the system from a two node HCA to a four node HCA, maintaining 100% of their investment in the initial purchase.

StorageSwiss Take

We believe HCA's would be a good fit for remote or distributed data centers. The problem is that the vendors did not fine tune their solutions for the use case. The result was that they were too complicated and expensive to solve the distributed data center problems. Atlantis' HyperScale CX-4 is a system designed specifically for these remote data centers and is simple, reliable and budget-friendly.

About Atlantis Computing

[Atlantis](#) is changing the economics of storage in the modern data center. We turn traditional approaches upside-down to integrate innovative software with hardware in hyperconverged solutions to fundamentally transform the agility and performance of data center storage.

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