



BUILDING BONDS

# HPE SIMPLIVITY BOOSTS HIGH PERFORMANCE AT A. K. CAPITAL

## HPE SimpliVity becomes a game changer

### Industry

Financial Industry

### Objective

A. K. Capital Services Ltd. needed high uptime and application availability to facilitate high volume transactions for banks, financial institutions and government entities. At the same time, A. K. Capital needed a high level of security and compliance.

### Approach

A. K. Capital Services Ltd. mobilises funds with innovative debt products for corporate and government entities by tapping into new investor segments and creating vibrant secondary market.

### IT matters

Comprehensive infrastructure solution for manageability, data protection, compliance and business continuity.

### Business matters

- High uptime and application availability
- Security and regulatory compliance
- Disaster recovery



**Riding on a robust technology infrastructure, which is highly available and performant with embedded data protection and fail-over capabilities, A. K. Capital has been able to consolidate its leadership position with innovative products and services in the debt capital market to penetrate deeper into its stronghold while expanding into new customer segments.**

A. K. Capital Services Ltd. is one of the most trusted bond houses in India, proficient at providing services for the fixed income market through management of private placements as well as public issues. Incorporated in 1993, it is the flagship company of the group with a vision to operate and develop the Indian debt capital markets.

Over 25+ years of its existence, A. K. Group has built a wide portfolio of services including debt capital market, brokering and distribution, advisory, retirement trust solutions, project financing, wealth management and more, catering to institutions, corporates and individuals.

With a client base comprising the largest Indian banks and government entities, A. K. Capital has been the fund mobiliser for some of India's largest public debt issues, tax-free bonds and private placement of debt.

Listed on BSE since 1995, A. K. Capital has delivered consistent shareholder value, leveraging innovative solutions to fuel steady expansion and growth. The group has made an indelible mark in investment banking with a range of debt financial products, tapping new investor and issuer segments and expanding the secondary markets for corporate bonds.

**“We wanted a solution that could prevent downtime by proactively detecting potential problems and take action instead of recovering it. And in case of an event, the system must have the capability to retrieve data at speed with minimal disruption and loss. After extensive due diligence, we selected HPE SimpliVity which met our business-critical needs.”**

– Amol Jawharkar, Group Head IT & CISO, A. K. Group

### **AVAILABILITY, UPTIME, HIGH PERFORMANCE, MISSION CRITICAL IN FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Operating in a highly competitive market environment, A. K. Capital Services must have its systems up and running at all times. Trading houses have high volumes of transactions at nanosecond speed, leaving no room for latency and downtime. With stakes so high, any disruption will not only damage A. K. Capital Services’ hard-earned reputation and market standing, but more importantly, cause huge financial loss to clients – each millisecond of latency or downtime can potentially cause damage to the tune of crores.

Speaking about the need for high uptime and application response time, Amol Jawharkar, group head IT & CISO, A. K. Group, says “Transactions in financial sector are time sensitive and any downtime or latency during processing impacts the value of the deal, which can lead to huge loss to clients.”

With increased connectivity and digitalisation, high availability and system accessibility became the foundation for business growth and credibility. However, with expanding operations and volumes, it became increasingly difficult for A. K. Group to manage disparate systems while ensuring uptime, efficient system utilisation and keeping cost under control.

The application environment was highly complex as some applications were deployed on legacy systems and could not be integrated, causing serious performance issues. The company wanted a simple solution to manage the complex environment by consolidating all applications on a single platform and improve manageability to deliver a uniform and consistent experience to users at all times.

As a player in financial services, ensuring data availability and data protection was a serious challenge. At the same time, the regulatory environment became more stringent and compliance guidelines were mandatory. Given the financial implications of transactions, A. K. Group could not afford downtime, and business continuity and disaster recovery were critical considerations for A. K. Group.

“We wanted to make our process more stringent in terms of data protection and enhance the compliance standards, and to address the same, we were looking for a solution to achieve these objectives in a cost-effective manner. We wanted a solution that could prevent downtime, proactively detect potential problems and take action instead of recovering it. And in case of an event, the system must have the capability to retrieve data at speed with minimal disruption and loss,” says Amol Jawharkar, group head IT & CISO of A. K. Group.

### **HPE SIMPLIVITY BECOMES A GAME CHANGER**

A. K. Capital Services Ltd. conducted thorough and extensive due diligence to identify a solution that would deliver resilient systems with built-in failover, data protection and high-application performance to help meet its business objectives, and HPE SimpliVity met its requirements.

A. K. Capital Services Ltd. migrated all its applications along with its dependencies to the HPE SimpliVity platform. This included Connect, its ERP system; CRM; business intelligence systems and its data warehouse to seamlessly integrate all applications. The unified environment was thus enabled by HPE SimpliVity facilitated administration with a single interface and increased visibility. This enhanced compliance and security posture of the company reduced overall cost of operations and enabled efficient utilisation of IT infrastructure.





Robust security is achieved with IAM-based access, ensuring authorised employees have access to specific assets and resources. The platform provides full data backup with near zero loss and data protection with in-line deduplication and compression across primary storage and backup.

The deployment has been designed to deliver high availability across three nodes, two of which are in Mumbai in active-active mode and the third node in Delhi that is designed to operate as disaster recovery wherein data is continuously replicated. The self-healing architecture will ensure high performance and system availability even in case of failure.

If any of the two nodes in the Mumbai data centre were to go down, the other one will continue to operate uninterrupted, delivering a seamless user experience. In case both the nodes fail, the third node will take over and DNS will automatically route traffic to the DR site in Delhi and traffic will move seamlessly to the second data centre.

The hyperconverged platform provides robust data protection with data synchronously persisting on two local hyperconverged nodes. These two levels of protection prevent loss and unavailability even when one node is offline due to failure or maintenance.

Summing up the deployment, Mathew Varghese, regional manager for HPE, says, “The HPE SimpliVity hyperconverged infrastructure fulfilled A. K. Group’s need for highly available infrastructure with simple,

automated disaster recovery and delivered data protection with fast data backup and efficient compression.”

## HOW A. K. CAPITAL SERVICES BENEFITED

A. K. Capital Services Ltd. has leveraged the advantages of a hyperconverged infrastructure with increased automation, agility and a high level of data protection. The infrastructure is highly available and reliable with intelligent systems continuously monitoring application performance and taking proactive measures to prevent performance degradation and ensure business continuity in case of failure.

“With HPE SimpliVity and continuous replication, we are assured of high availability of systems and high application performance, which is business-critical for us,” says Anil Bhagat, senior IT manager, A. K. Capital Services Ltd.

Specific benefits that have accrued include the following:

- Maintain market leadership position with new products and services backed by robust technology infrastructure that facilitates high-volume transactions.
- Meet compliance requirement with IAM-based access, data protection and high visibility in systems.
- Automated business continuity with highly available infrastructure and disaster recovery capabilities.



## Customer at a glance

### Hardware

HPE SimpliVity

- Data virtualisation platform
- Data protection
- Disaster recovery
- Security and compliance

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– Mathew Varghese, Regional Manager for HPE

- Empowered IT team with one simplified rack significantly reducing complexity in infrastructure management. The team is able to focus on more critical issues, such as business expansion, customer support and facilitate frequent innovation.
- Cost savings accrued due to operational efficiency and data compression technology, which reduced capacity requirement for storage.
- Deliver superb customer experience with high-performance of applications.

Speaking about the experience, Anil Zokande, manager-IT infra, A. K. Group, says “Operational complexity has drastically reduced with a single view of entire infrastructure, leaving us with more time to focus on productive issues.”

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