



Seventy Seven Energy goes 100% cloud in only four months with VMware and AirWatch Solutions

INDUSTRY

Oil & Gas

LOCATION

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

KEY CHALLENGES

- Provide application access to more than 2,500 users through company divestiture
- Small IT staff could not support large on-premise infrastructure
- Global workforce needed anytime, anywhere access to work resources and desktops

SOLUTION

77NRG leveraged VMware Horizon Air, VMware vCloud Air and AirWatch Enterprise Mobility Management to deliver applications and resources quickly over a cloud-based infrastructure. Employees use company-provided and employee-owned devices to access resources from anywhere.

BUSINESS BENEFITS

- Increased employee productivity with anytime access to business resources
- Simplified IT management with a 100% cloud-hosted solution
- Enabled quick deployment scalability to meet demands of industry

In the volatile oil and gas industry, Seventy Seven Energy (77NRG) needed a virtualization solution that could scale quickly to support thousands of users under a tight deadline. With a small IT staff and limited resources, the company wanted a complete cloud-hosted solution. With a combined VMware Horizon® Air™, VMware vCloud® Air™ and AirWatch® Enterprise Mobility Management solution, 77NRG successfully delivered virtualized resources to 2,500 employees within just four months.

77NRG is a diversified oilfield services company providing a wide range of services and equipment to U.S. land-based exploration and production customers. Through its affiliate network, the company provides comprehensive upstream services, including drilling, pressure pumping and oilfield rental tools. Operations are geographically diversified across many of the most active oil and natural gas plays in the onshore United States.

The Challenge

77NRG employees were often at oil wells and pumping locations to support customer drilling activities. These employees used laptops and mobile devices on-site to access valuable information. However, the majority of devices lacked easy access to important productivity applications and enterprise resources in the field. This slowed down work and made it difficult for employees to complete their jobs without requiring a trip to the office. The small 77NRG IT department did not have a centralized management platform on which to configure devices and applications efficiently, leading to inconsistent productivity tools for employees.

"A majority of our users are in the field, supporting drilling activity throughout the country—they are not sitting in a traditional office space or are always on traditional PCs," said Jarin Dykstra, Sr. Manager, Information Systems, Seventy Seven Energy. "We needed a way to get applications and tools to them wherever they are."

77NRG also faced a pending divestiture from Chesapeake Energy Corporation, a major stakeholder in its business. The company had a short timeline to equip its more than 2,500 users with a usable solution without interrupting business. Working within the oil and gas industry, the company needed to find a way to quickly scale its deployment up or down based on acquisition/divestiture cycles and to meet market demand.

The Solution

Within a short four months from planning to execution, 77NRG fully deployed VMware and AirWatch solutions to establish a cloud-based, centrally managed infrastructure for its more than 2,500 field employees. The company leverages VMware vCloud Air to bring its directory services, applications and internal resources to the cloud to simplify management for its IT team. 77NRG gains the scalability to quickly adapt to changes in its workforce.

“VMware Horizon Air enables employees to access their desktop from any location, even at Grandma’s house. I’ve had employees approach me to tell me how great it is that they can get home and start working exactly where they left off in the field. And they can use the same familiar desktop they have on other devices. This has been the key for users – they love it.”

Jarin Dykstra
Sr. Manager, Information Systems,
Seventy Seven Energy

The company delivers virtualized desktops to employees using VMware Horizon Air. Employees see a familiar desktop experience across devices and can easily access important productivity applications for their jobs. 77NRG also employs AirWatch Enterprise Mobility Management to deliver security and streamline application deployment to corporate and employee-owned mobile devices. “Our end-users have loved the AirWatch solution,” remarked Dykstra. “It’s been easy for them to install the apps they need and have resources readily available to them. Even for employees using their own devices, they get access no matter what device they use. We have heard nothing but good things from employees.”

Business Results & Benefits

VMware and AirWatch bring cloud-based virtualization, hosting and scalability to 77NRG. Field employees at oil drilling or fulfillment sites can now access crucial desktops, applications and resources from anywhere, increasing their effectiveness with customers. Both the company and employees are seeing important benefits with virtualized and mobile solutions in place.

Increased employee productivity while mobile

77NRG employees work more efficiently while on-site with customers. These employees carry AirWatch-managed mobile devices or laptops in the field to access important enterprise resource planning applications through Horizon Air. This makes it simpler for employees to use a single device for all work activities. “Before VMware and AirWatch, users never knew whether to go to their mobile device or their office PC to access information,” explained Dykstra. “Now, they can get anything they need on a mobile device, as well as on all of the other devices they use.”

With fully connected mobile devices, 77NRG employees can stay in the field longer. If employees do not have the applications they need, the company now has the infrastructure to deliver these applications remotely. When a device is broken or lost, employees can quickly get a new one and enroll it into AirWatch to receive applications and enterprise resources. Users can effectively continue working with little interruption.

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Simple scalability with 100% cloud infrastructure

VMware solutions provide a highly scalable cloud-based deployment for 77NRG. By using vCloud Air to support its Horizon Air and AirWatch deployments, 77NRG stays agile in the market without incurring the additional costs or workloads associated with on-premise architecture. Its IT team has more time to help employees rather than maintaining and fixing physical servers.

“We chose cloud-hosted desktops over traditional infrastructure because we’re a cloud-first organization,” explained Dykstra. “VMware solutions have been very successful for us. They’ve allowed us to be flexible for the future. Whether we need to flex up or down with our industry, we’re able to provide our desktops and applications through these changes.”

The company also had assistance from the VMware Professional Services Team to help with the implementation. The Professional Services team delivered the training and technical support 77NRG needed to be successful during its divestiture. “The VMware professional services organization provided a lot of value to us,” stated Dykstra. “They helped with design and development, and, as we took over the project ourselves, they trained our internal staff on how to utilize VMware solutions and manage them. With the team’s help, VMware solutions have been able to reduce the long-term internal staff needed to maintain the deployment. This helped make VMware solutions successful for us.”

VMWARE FOOTPRINT

- VMware Horizon Air
- VMware vCloud Air
- AirWatch Enterprise Mobility Management
- VMware Professional Services

PLATFORM

- iOS
- Android
- Windows

Looking Ahead

Once the divestiture from Chesapeake Bay is complete, 77NRG will continue to support users and maintain existing devices and desktops. The company focuses on staying prepared for the fluctuation cycles common to the oil and gas industry, and VMware and AirWatch have enabled 77NRG to do just that. "In our industry, there's a constant acquisition and divestiture cycle, so we have to be as flexible as we can in our environment," admitted Dykstra. "VMware and AirWatch solutions allow us to support these kinds of market activities."

