



Decreased dependence on siloed components



Enhanced operational visibility



50% savings in turnaround time in provisioning



Increased enterprise agility

Laying A Robust Hybrid Cloud Foundation For Alembic's New Data Center

Achieving Business Agility and Flexibility with the Hybrid Cloud Architecture

Having a history of more than 100 years, Alembic Pharmaceuticals is an Indian multinational company that has revolutionized the country's drug manufacturing landscape with cutting-edge innovations. It manufactures and markets generic pharmaceutical products globally, and is the market leader in the macrolides segment of anti-infective drugs in India. Building on the past success of modernizing the data centers with VMware vSphere, VMware assisted Alembic in setting up a new manufacturing facility at Jarod, Gujarat in 2018, with a robust, secure, and agile hyperconverged IT infrastructure based on VMware Cloud Foundation.

Introduction

Functioning in a heavily regulated industry, Alembic Pharmaceuticals had been at the forefront of technology adoption to adhere to stringent compliance and regulatory requirements. To address the data compliance concerns and ensure high availability of its mission-critical applications, Alembic collaborated with VMware in 2015 to modernize its data centers across various manufacturing plants. Whether it is pharma-specific applications, such as Laboratory Information Management System, or business-critical applications such as SAP ERP, all were deployed on an environment virtualized using VMware vSphere.



Established in 1907, Alembic Pharmaceuticals Ltd. has revolutionized the pharmaceutical and drug industry in the Indian subcontinent with its affordable yet high quality medicines for health care and wellness.

INDUSTRY

Pharmaceuticals

HEADQUARTERS

Vadodara, Gujarat, India

ABOUT THE PARTNER

Ashtech Infotech is a system integration and services organization. The company builds reliable, secure and manageable IT infrastructure that aids clients to meet their business objective. It is VMware's premier partner for VMware SDDC portfolio.

VMWARE FOOTPRINT

VMware Cloud Foundation™
VMware vCenter®

This led to data center consolidation, high resource availability, cost optimization, and ease of management. Having experienced these benefits at data centers of its existing plants and research centers, the company had in place an IT infrastructure template to follow for any of its future manufacturing plants. However, when Alembic expanded its operations by setting up a state-of-the-art greenfield manufacturing plant at Jarod, Gujarat in 2018, it didn't opt for tried-and-tested approach of traditional three-tier siloed IT infrastructure. Instead, Alembic got on board for a hybrid cloud-ready data center with VMware from the onset of the project.

The Challenge

With business operations in North America, Alembic not just had to adhere to regulatory requirements in India, but also was subjected to frequent U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) audits. Hence, Alembic had leveraged VMware vSphere as the backbone of its virtualized IT environment across all the manufacturing plants. This helped in adhering to compliances



as a part of day-to-day operations, rather than making it a post event-based activity. Alembic IT team had the option of deploying an IT environment similar to its other plants at its planned facility at Jarod. However, the company didn't proceed with the three-tier traditional approach for the Jarod plant. Alembic alternatively sought for an IT platform that will help them to hyperconverge the IT infrastructure in order to achieve a hybrid cloud-ready data center.

For its new plant at Jarod, Alembic wanted the IT ecosystem to be seamless across all departments and functions without any siloed dependency. The company also wanted operational and managerial visibility into IT resources to ensure optimal resource utilization. Alembic needed a single IT architecture for all application types that would deliver secure and consistent performance across private and public clouds. Hence, it required a platform that would support cloud-native applications along with traditional three-tier applications as well.

Over the years, the VMware team had nurtured the relationship with Alembic as trusted partners and advisors. And as part of one of the discussions, Alembic solicited VMware's advice on its IT requirement for the new data center at Jarod plant.



The Solution

The VMware team engaged with Alembic right from the data center blueprint stage and worked with them to chart out the data center architecture for the Jarod plant. As the IT implementation at Jarod plant was a greenfield deployment, Alembic IT team had a clean slate to plan for a state-of-the-art hybrid cloud-ready data center with no burden of legacy systems or hardware. Hence, VMware Cloud Foundation (VCF) was identified as the best platform to address the requirements of Alembic.

VCF, with its full-stack hyperconverged infrastructure, offers an integrated architecture that is easy to deploy and offers seamless management and operational control across the hybrid cloud. VCF is a comprehensive suite of products that bundles compute virtualization (VMware vSphere), storage virtualization (VMware vSAN), network virtualization (VMware NSX), and cloud management and monitoring (VMware vRealize Suite). Integrating and managing all the components together, reduces service delivery time, drives operational efficiency and improves visibility across the hybrid cloud.

“VMware Cloud Foundation has enabled us to have a single, integrated, and secure infrastructure. The hybrid cloud platform has simplified management and standardized the IT architecture for us. VMware solutions have optimized performance and amplified storage and networking tools. We look forward to future partnerships with VMware to deploy the best-in-class solutions across Alembic.”

JITENDRA MISHRA
CIO, ALEMBIC PHARMACEUTICALS

VMware had deep dive deliberations with Alembic on the benefits of hybrid cloud infrastructure enabled through VCF. After discussions with senior leaders at VMware and witnessing the demos of the use case, Alembic finalized 14 licenses of VCF as the platform for its data center.

At that time, Alembic was only the second VCF customer in India. To ensure a successful deployment, the Product Engineering teams and Professional Services teams collaborated along with the partner, Ashtech Infotech.

During the 6-month engagement, starting from data center blueprint stage to the actual VCF deployment, the VMware teams gathered the customer's requirements and addressed all the meticulous prerequisites for the hybrid cloud enabled infrastructure.

The on-ground preparedness of all prerequisites as a result of collaboration between product engineering, professional services, and core teams resulted in the successful implementation of VCF at Alembic's Jarod plant in just one day. The partner Ashtech had played a pivotal role in this engagement, as their knowledge of various systems at Alembic helped ensure a smooth implementation.

The Benefits

With VCF deployed, Alembic has a hardware-agnostic, robust and agile data center foundation for hybrid cloud. As the implementation was smooth and completed in just one day, it helped Alembic to keep within its estimated project timelines.



With its integrated architecture, VCF eliminates the need of traditional administrative silos in data centers by merging compute, storage and network. Thereby allowing IT administrators with end-to-end visibility of IT infrastructure to provision resources faster for application deployment. This simplified and automated resource management has helped Alembic IT team to ensure optimized resource utilization and enforce security for intrinsic operations. Thus, enforcing governance and complying with regulatory compliances. Compared to other Alembic data centers, where the IT team used a traditional siloed set-up, the resource provisioning time at the Jarod plant has been reduced significantly by 50% with the help of automation. This has helped Alembic IT team to deliver new services faster, and ensure high availability.

With VCF, Alembic is now able to run traditional three-tier workloads alongside cloud-native applications with seamless and consistent operations. Thus, with this deployment Alembic has been able to build a future-proof hybrid cloud-ready data center.

Looking Ahead

Implementation of VCF at Alembic was the first instance of a pharma company deploying it in India. It has set a precedent and a use case to be future-proof for other Indian manufacturing companies that want to build on, and extend a tried-and-tested traditional approach for IT.

Alembic is already planning to implement Enterprise Mobility Management (EMM) across various verticals. In this regard, it is evaluating the Workspace ONE platform. To amplify the usage of public cloud in future on its existing platform, the VMware team is in discussion with Alembic.



#Alembic Pharmaceuticals reaps benefits of hybrid cloud-ready data center with #VMware Cloud Foundation #VCF