

Open storage for
reduced cost.
Virtual servers for
scalability.

UC Merced Builds Scalable Storage for the Future

- Seamless growth from terabytes to petabytes of capacity
- Cost-effective open storage architecture
- Shared, highly available file storage across all platforms

UC Merced is the tenth campus of the renowned University of California system, and the first American research university to be built in the 21st century. Situated on a completely new campus in California's San Joaquin Valley, the University is projected to grow to a 25,000 student enrollment.

Storage that Spans the Student's Academic Career

The university is also one of the first to fully integrate information technology into the academic experience. Upon entering, all students are assigned home directory storage that will constitute the workspace for their entire academic career. All class work and administrative information will be stored in that folder, providing a complete record of the student's progress.

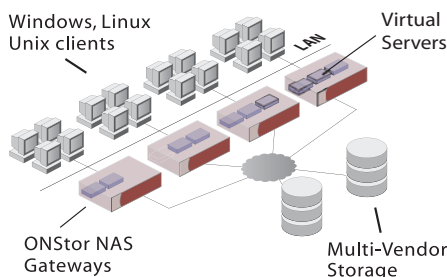
The storage infrastructure will play a critical role in supporting this approach to academic record keeping. Because the university needed to provide shared storage for a wide variety of computing platforms, NAS was the obvious storage choice. Said Enrique Flores, UC Merced's Lead UNIX System Administrator, "As a technology, NAS provides the shared storage we need. But the NAS solutions we looked at varied a lot in terms of cost and scalability."

"Our scalability requirements are huge. We know the storage environment will grow over time, and we needed a solution that would grow with us," Enrique continued. "From a starting point of only a few terabytes, the ultimate capacity is likely to reach hundreds or thousands of terabytes."

Selecting a NAS Solution

"We looked at several different NAS solutions. Our preference was to use a NAS Gateway since that would give us the flexibility to buy the disk of our choice. But BlueArc's Titan was costly and did not scale well, IBM's 500G worked only with their disk, and NetApp was expensive and would have cost us a lot of capacity overhead on the external disk."

Scalable File Sharing Solution Delivers Seamless Growth



ONStor NAS Gateways provide a scalable, highly available file sharing solution. The open storage architecture allowed UC Merced to deploy the storage of their choice.

Investment
protection
and scalability for
long-term growth.

ONStor Benefits to UC Merced

Enrique and his team ultimately selected the ONStor solution for these reasons:

- **Scalability:** The ability to grow seamlessly and to independently add capacity and performance as required. Other NAS solutions often require that processor and disk resources be added together.
- **Investment Protection:** ONStor's open-storage architecture provided the flexibility to deploy Hitachi Thunder, their preferred storage. It also provides complete sourcing flexibility down the road.
- **Low overhead:** Makes very efficient use of external storage.
- **Cost:** Entry cost that is a fraction of competitive solutions.

"ONStor and Helio Solutions, our solution provider, proposed the only solution that met all of our scalability, cost, and open storage objectives," Enrique concluded.