

Cubist Pharmaceuticals, Inc.



Based in Lexington, Massachusetts, Cubist is a rapidly growing biopharmaceutical company that focuses on research, development, and commercialization of anti-infective products that address unmet medical needs in the acute care environment. Its successful intravenous drug CUBICIN® (daptomycin for injection) is a new class of antibiotic that combats certain drug-resistant *S. aureus* infections. Research is underway on another antibiotic candidate and a non-antibiotic treatment for other types of infection. With these and other products in development, Cubist is earning successes where other biopharmaceutical companies have faltered.

CUBIST
PHARMACEUTICALS

"I'm frugal by design. The Pillar solution is feature-rich without the high costs of other systems. I like to get good value for my money."

Michael Geldart, Senior Manager of Computer Operations, Cubist

Challenges

As a pharmaceutical company, Cubist must comply with strict government regulations for data retention. Its research and development efforts generate massive amounts of data from institutional tests and trials, all of which must be permanently archived and accessible to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In addition, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) requires archive of all financial records for seven years. Cubist has about 30 Oracle databases, many developed in house, that support sophisticated applications and large, complex documents.

Publicly traded companies must also be ready for potential litigation, able to respond to court orders for e-discovery. Cubist must ensure that discoverable documentation such as email correspondence must be available for near-live retrieval, because courts routinely give just two to four days for compliance.

The data center SAN must deliver high data availability and high utilization for cost efficiency and streamlined management. Cubist wants systems that help it leverage the latest trends in storage virtualization, including virtual servers. It has an existing relationship with a major storage vendor that meets its needs for primary storage; however, it needed a more cost-effective, yet enterprise-class storage system to support its data backup and archive needs.

pillar
DATA SYSTEMS

Solution

Cubist initially chose the Pillar Axiom® storage system for its SAN-based backup and retrieval needs. The SATA-based architecture of the Axiom reduces the cost per GB for backup and archive, and interoperates with Cubist's existing Veritas NetBackup to disk solution. The fully redundant architecture delivers enterprise-class availability and reliability. The easy to use AxiomONE® Storage Services Manager software enables Cubist to provision and manage its own LUNs. AxiomONE Dynamic Performance supports policy-based provisioning, so that Cubist can tailor system performance to the particular requirements of each LUN within moments.

The IT staff uncrated and set up the Axiom in just a couple of hours, without needing help from Pillar. After successful deployment of the backup and archive solutions, Cubist decided to take full advantage of Dynamic Performance capabilities. The Axiom now supports a development and test Oracle Enterprise Resource Planning database alongside backup and archive storage in the same array.

Why Pillar?

- **AxiomONE Dynamic Performance** – supports multiple applications in a single array with policy-based performance levels and adjustable queue depth
- **High Availability** – dual controllers with active/active failover in Axiom Slammers, local RAID controllers and hot-spare drive in Axiom Bricks, and redundancy with no single point of failure ensure maximum uptime and data availability
- **Interoperability and OS Support** – supports compatibility with existing servers, Oracle databases, and NetBackup
- **Cost Effective** – SATA-based disk architecture and licensing fee per system deliver a low cost per GB

Results

The Axiom platform meets Cubist requirements for flexibility and economy alongside enterprise-class performance and features. As the amount of data it manages grows over time, Cubist can scale Axiom performance with the addition of Slammers. The company can also scale capacity through the addition of Bricks without paying additional licensing fees. Cubist is also evaluating the Axiom platform for other applications such as disaster recovery.

“I don't like to pigeonhole myself. I buy technology that functions for more than one purpose. The Axiom has a whole host of interesting technologies. Its enterprise performance lets me take it beyond backup and archive to support development, test, and production applications.”

Michael Geldart, Senior Manager of Computer Operations, Cubist

