

Arcadia

WHO:

Made up of eight of the high street's best loved fashion brands, Arcadia employs 24,000 people across the world

CHALLENGES:

VDI performance - Citrix XenDesktop
Agile scalability

Test/Development workloads

IT ENVIRONMENT:

Two data centers transitioning to hybrid cloud and Oracle SaaS for retailing. IBMi, Intel servers, Citrix XenApp, XenDesktop, NAS file/print servers, WAN

SOLUTION:

Kaminario K2, one in each data center (50TB each)

ADVANTAGES:

- Superior all-flash performance
- Unlimited Scalability
- Cost effective
- Future Migration platform
- Partner Relationship with CDW
- Guaranteed capacity

Speed Achieved

A global retailer satisfies power-users with performance

Executive Summary

A business operating for more than a century has learned how to grow, change and modernize. Arcadia has done it more than once and is now in the process of transitioning its retail and supply-chain applications to Software as a Service (SaaS) using Oracle's retail suite. However, their virtual desktops were suffering from poor performance and drawing constant user complaints. Kaminario all-flash arrays in two data centers solved their performance issues, eliminated complaints, and provided a path for growth.

Arcadia Overview

Founded in the early 1900s, Arcadia Group is made up of eight of the high street's best-loved fashion brands and employs 24,000 people across the world. With more than 2,000 stores in the UK, US and EU, eight online stores and an ever-growing roster of concessions and international franchise outlets, Arcadia is a global force in fashion.

The Challenge

Arcadia is a global business with data centers and corporate headquarters in the UK and connections to remote locations from New York to Shanghai. It's a complex operation with IT quality and performance essential to business efficiency. Benchmarking industry best practices, Arcadia continues to modernize. They are shifting to a SaaS-based Oracle suite of retail applications. They are increasing their use of cloud services and had transitioned to Citrix-based virtual desktops across all locations. Then that became a performance challenge.

Their initial Citrix VDI deployment was predicated on estimated IOPS requirements across the general user base. However, after rollout, they found that developers, programmers, and heavy users were putting a greater than expected burden on the system. The backend disk systems were incapable of servicing the demand. Performance slipped, and complaints mounted.

"We presented our challenge to Kaminario, and they rose to it. The experience has been smooth and enjoyable – a joy."

Steve Hall,
Arcadia Technology Manager

“Kaminario’s performance exceeded all of our expectations. They positioned us for growth and did it at a reasonable price point.”

Steve Hall,
Arcadia Technology Manager



IMMEDIATE BENEFITS:

- Peak performance increased from 2000 IOPS to 23,000 IOPS with headroom to spare
- User complaints immediately eliminated
- Snapshots supporting developers
- Kaminario guaranteed performance and capacity
- Flexibility for growth without upfront expense

Examining Options

It became clear that the spinning disk dedicated to VDI users would not satisfy the need. Arcadia began looking for a replacement that would support their growth and satisfy changing user profiles. Three options were considered before looking at Kaminario. “One option was cheap but wouldn’t hold up,” said Hall. “Others were more expensive but wouldn’t solve the problem long term. Kaminario’s price was higher, but it gave us a longer lifespan for the solution, including guarantees on IOPS and capacity.”

The Solution

Arcadia purchased Kaminario all-flash arrays for each of two data centers. All their VDI users were connected. Each K2 supports roughly half the user base, and they are mutually configured for failover if needed. The implementation went quickly, and the results were dramatic. “We went from constant pain to absolute relief,” said Hall. “Give me some of that when I have the flu.”

Flexibility for future growth is a clear benefit, but the performance improvement was most critical. Measured performance of the pre-Kaminario Disk Subsystem showed an average of 1500 IOPs peaking at 2000 on the Personal Virtual Disks (PVD) array with latency at 10ms+. This poor performance caused significant slowdowns in throughput where individual user sessions sometimes dropped to 1 Mbps.

After moving the PVD array to Kaminario, IOPS increased to 3,000 with peaks at 23,000 IOPS, .3ms latency and throughput of 666 Mbps. And there was still plenty of headroom. An approximate 40% increase in IOPS is expected as they transition users to a Windows 10 image. Still, for Arcadia, the key measure is that before Kaminario users constantly complained. Since moving to Kaminario, complaints have evaporated.

“We saw a change in user types. There were more developers doing lots of compilations and more heavy users than we had anticipated. Performance suffered. That impacted all users and brought constant complaints. Kaminario stopped that in a stroke.”

Steve Hall,
Arcadia Technology Manager



Contact

Contact a business development representative to answer any questions you may have.



Schedule a Demo

Schedule a demo with an engineer and learn if Kaminario's solution works for you.



Request a Quote

Request a quote for your application from our business development team.

About Kaminario

Kaminario, the leading all-flash storage company, is redefining the future of modern data centers. Its unique solution enables organizations to succeed in today's on-demand world and prepares them to seamlessly handle tomorrow's innovations. Only Kaminario K2 delivers the agility, scalability, performance and economics a data center requires to deal with today's cloud-first, dynamic world and provide real-time data access -- anywhere, anytime. Hundreds of customers rely on the Kaminario K2 all-flash array to power their mission critical applications and safeguard their digital ecosystem. Headquartered in Needham, MA, Kaminario works with an extensive network of resellers and distributors, globally.

For more information, visit: www.kaminario.com.

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