

A2 Hosting Transforms and Optimizes VPS Solutions with Virtuozzo Hybrid Server



About the Company

- Founded in 2003
- Based in Ann Arbor, MI, USA
- Web hosting provider
- Global customer base
- Product: Virtuozzo Hybrid Server

Executive Summary

A2 Hosting is a leading web hosting provider with strong, experienced technical leadership committed to offering customers the fastest, most reliable hosting services. The team consistently looks for ways to accelerate the company's business and to improve the quality and value of its services. This commitment has resulted in A2 Hosting becoming a global web hosting leader offering lightning-fast page loads, superb 24/7/365 support, and unparalleled uptime.

However, the Virtual Private Server (VPS) market is ramping up. Research firm [Mordor Intelligence recently projected](#) that it will experience a 17.1% CAGR over the next five years. Related, A2 Hosting has been experiencing a rapid increase in demand from existing and new customers.

To address this current and future demand, the web hosting provider sought to revamp its VPS packages by modernizing the infrastructure behind them. This initiative included updating certain hardware and introducing more robust virtualization capabilities.

Challenge

Optimize VPS Services to Support Increased Demand

A2 Hosting had been running Virtuozzo's open source virtualization solution on its old infrastructure. But the hosting company's new hardware and performance objectives required something more advanced. Several virtualization products were considered.

In mid-2020, A2 Hosting opted to build its own solution on Kernel-based Virtual Machine (KVM) modules despite the internal learning curve associated with using this technology. After several months of work, the company's development team learned that the KVM option introduced some business-critical challenges. Specifically:

- Inability to cross-share underutilized storage
- Low-frequency backups
- Customer migration complexities
- Application integration complexities
- Long development cycles

While these and other issues could be solved over time, A2 Hosting had a predetermined budget to stay within and an aggressive launch timeline. In addition to market growth drivers defined by [Mordor Intelligence](#), COVID-19 had influenced exponentially more customers to leverage advanced web-based solutions for continued operations or simply to support unprecedented amounts of web traffic. Implementation of a new solution would need to be completed in just three months; sticking with the KVM development project no longer made sense. It was becoming more significant than anticipated.

Solution

Virtuozzo Hybrid Server

A Premium Product for Premium Performance

After careful evaluation, A2 Hosting chose Virtuozzo's premium flagship product -- Virtuozzo Hybrid Server - as the virtualization platform that would enable its VPS solutions as well as help future-proof its business overall.

Virtuozzo Hybrid Server is a market-leading virtualization solution that includes container virtualization, KVM-based virtual machines, software-defined storage, along with enterprise features and production support. It runs on top of Virtuozzo Linux (VzLinux), a RHEL-based Linux distribution. Virtuozzo Hybrid Server powers the world's leading hosting service providers with a toolset that partners leverage to build targeted, competitive services at a low total cost of ownership.

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Key Benefits

Improved Performance, Density, and Optimization

Considering the company had worked with Virtuozzo's open source platform before, the learning curve associated with shifting to Virtuozzo Hybrid Server was minimal. The return on investment, however, was large.



Performance Increase >35%

Overall system performance increased when compared to alternative virtualization solutions on the same infrastructure, a benefit passed through to A2 Hosting customers at no cost.



Compute Density Improvement 50%

This improvement helps utilize servers to their full potential, providing a cost-effective virtualization product while also minimizing the impact on the environment.



High-Frequency Snapshots

Easy, frequent snapshots enable A2 Hosting to keep crucial records of customers' file systems and system architectures in their consistent state, augmenting regular full data backups.

Result

Virtuozzo and A2 Hosting Define Next Generation Hosting Experiences, Powered by VPS



Bryan Muthig,
CEO, A2 Hosting

"Virtuozzo quickly became a crucial partner last year. Using Virtuozzo's Hybrid Server has delivered better efficiencies for both infrastructure and software dependencies. We've been able to achieve upwards of 50 percent increase in performance from the same hardware versus other solutions. But, the product's benefits were only part of our ROI. Virtuozzo's team stepped in to help us with migrating customers to the new platform, and that enabled us to focus where we needed to...on our customers."



Alex Fine,
CEO, Virtuozzo

"The relationship between A2 Hosting and Virtuozzo is a true partnership of innovation. One that combines best-in-class technology and solutions with a strategic vision to define the future of hosting. A2 Hosting's superior customer support, ultra-fast speeds, and remarkable scalability enable a future with limitless potential for mutual growth; a benefit unmatched in the hosting market today."

By implementing Virtuozzo Hybrid Server, A2 Hosting has successfully optimized its VPS services while eliminating disparate systems and legacy products. The result is a modern, integrated solution that can scale to address an expanding customer base with evolving customer needs. It is currently supporting a wide variety of Managed and Unmanaged VPS plans.

This solution is the future of hosting. Simple to use. Simple to optimize. Fast. And powerful.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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