



BACKUP/RECOVERY/ARCHIVING	■
CLUSTERING	■
CONSOLIDATION	■
DATABASE	■
MANAGEMENT/UTILITIES	■
MESSAGING	■
VIRTUALIZATION	■

#### CUSTOMER PROFILE

Juris, Inc., is the only major vendor that creates business management software for law firms. [www.juris.net](http://www.juris.net)

#### CHALLENGE

Juris needed to accommodate the needs of a rapidly growing business by introducing a scalable, centralized storage environment that improves performance and flexibility without adding complexity

#### SOLUTION

Dell™ PowerVault™ NX1950 integrated network attached storage (NAS) system and a PowerVault MD3000 modular disk storage subsystem increase capacity, improve read/write performance, and capitalize on the flexibility of iSCSI-enabled application storage

#### BENEFITS

New architecture offers a centralized, scalable solution that helps cut IT admin time by 50 percent; additional capacity and flexibility frees up application servers to improve performance; faster data access increases productivity and speeds development

# Juris Prudence

Dell storage helps the law firm management software leader handle business and data growth while cutting IT admin time by 50%

While insurance, finance, healthcare, and other service industries were quick to move toward paperless operations, the legal industry was initially reluctant to abandon its tradition of paper-based communications and record keeping. Juris, Inc., helped to accelerate the transition for law firms. As the leading vendor of law firm business and management software, Juris has sponsored an important shift in the culture of many law firms, which are now realizing the benefits of using technology to improve business efficiency.

For Juris, technology has long been essential for enhancing the efficiency of its own operations. "Before IT was widely used in any industry—let alone the legal industry—our founder believed in IT as a way to improve productivity," says Ron Maffei, a network administrator with Juris. "That belief is referenced in our name. Juris came from jury information systems. As a company promoting efficiency to law firms, we definitely need to practice what we preach."

As Juris continues to grow, it is expanding its core software development business and branching out to offer online research data. "Five years ago we were more of a small business," says Maffei. "Now, we are a midsize enterprise. There is a definite opportunity for us as more law firms become interested in the promise of improved productivity and increased partner income."



“The PowerVault NX1950 and PowerVault MD3000 have greatly improved file access speed. The difference is like night and day compared to what we had before. We’ve received great feedback from our developers who are constantly sharing files.”

— Ron Maffei, Network Administrator, Juris, Inc.

Rapid growth has spurred Juris to implement a more efficient and scalable storage strategy. “With more business, more customer information, and more employees needing to share that information, we needed a new storage environment,” says Maffei. “But we didn’t want to simply buy more storage systems. We wanted to minimize the complexity of managing our storage environment so we wouldn’t create more work for the IT staff.”

### **Dell networked storage offers additional capacity without additional burdens**

Although Juris considered a number of storage vendors, Dell was a clear choice. “We’ve been an all-Dell shop for a while now,” says Maffei. “We have Dell Latitude notebooks and Dell OptiPlex desktops, but more importantly, we have Dell PowerEdge servers. In our experience, those servers have been incredibly reliable. So it was a natural choice to work with Dell on our storage situation.”

Dell suggested the Dell PowerVault NX1950 integrated network attached storage (NAS) system—a new unified storage product that offers the simplicity of a traditional NAS product with the centralized storage and easy scalability of a storage area network (SAN). The PowerVault NX1950 combines iSCSI protocol with standard NFS and CIFS protocols so organizations can store both blocks of application data and file data in a single environment. The iSCSI protocol allows servers running applications such as Microsoft® Exchange Server or Microsoft SQL Server™ to access a remote storage array as if it were attached locally. As a result, administrators can optimize information processing by allowing host servers to manage application workloads while the PowerVault NX1950 handles storage workloads.

Dell Infrastructure Consulting Services (ICS) helped Juris deploy the PowerVault NX1950 so it could centralize the company’s file storage while also off-loading and consolidating data storage from application servers. “We now store all company files on the PowerVault NX1950,” says Maffei. “We are also in the process of consolidating Microsoft SQL Server 2005 databases and Microsoft Exchange Server 2003 data on the PowerVault NX1950.”

Moving application data to the PowerVault NX1950 should help improve overall system utilization. “Our SQL Servers store everything from customer data to internal operations data—but they also help serve our research data to customers online,” says Maffei. “Moving that data, and our Exchange

Server data, off our Dell PowerEdge application servers and onto our new Dell PowerVault NX1950 helps us improve the performance of those servers and increase our overall utilization of both server and storage resources.”

The PowerVault NX1950 gives Juris flexibility that is critical for the company’s medium-sized operation. “Centralizing storage is important, but being able to also consolidate application storage over our IP network was very attractive to us,” explains Maffei. “The PowerVault NX1950 gives us capabilities that are usually reserved for larger storage networks in a package that fits seamlessly into our network.”

Attached to the PowerVault NX1950 is a Dell PowerVault MD3000 disk storage subsystem. The PowerVault MD3000 currently uses 6 of 15 available drive slots to expand the storage available on the network while still providing Juris the flexibility to scale as its storage needs increase. The disk storage array also delivers fast read/write performance with its 15,000 rpm SAS drives. “The PowerVault NX1950 and PowerVault MD3000 have greatly improved file access speed,” says Maffei. “The difference is like night and day compared to what we had before. We’ve received great feedback from our developers who are constantly sharing files.”

### **Integrated Microsoft Windows and Dell Services help set up new storage network in three hours**

The PowerVault NX1950 also helped to simplify storage management for the Juris IT staff. “The most surprising aspect of this new environment was how easy it was to set up,” says Maffei. “Since it was a new product, Dell ICS was there to help, but the integrated Microsoft Windows management system that was preloaded on the PowerVault NX1950 was also an enormous help. Our new storage network was up in three hours.”

The PowerVault NX1950 uses the Microsoft Windows® Unified Data Storage Server operating system—codeveloped by Dell and Microsoft—to simplify the tasks of provisioning and managing storage. “Setting up the PowerVault NX1950 was easy,” says Maffei. “We didn’t have to do a lot of manual configuration. Most of the storage allocation was done through simple wizards. Ongoing maintenance is also simplified. Everything from backup and restore functions to mirroring is done through a familiar Windows interface.”



The centralization of the storage architecture helps simplify storage administration for Juris. "With all of our storage centralized on the PowerVault NX1950, management and backup is much simpler," says Maffei. "And the Windows Unified Data Storage Server provides all of the tools we need now and in the future to handle our growing storage needs."

#### **New storage environment enhances company productivity**

Juris has already discovered that the speed of file access within the new storage environment has helped to improve employee productivity. "When employees notice a difference, you know that our Dell storage network is significantly faster," says Maffei. "Every day an employee will mention to me how much faster he or she can locate and access data. By saving even small amounts of time opening or saving files, they can be more productive."

For Juris, it's clear that the new Dell storage environment has helped reduce administrative IT burdens. "Centralizing our storage environment on Dell definitely reduces the IT workload," Maffei says. "Our staff members don't have to be constantly involved with backing up data. Now all of our company data resides in one place. My data management time has literally been cut in half."

#### **HOW IT WORKS**

##### **HARDWARE:**

- Dell™ PowerVault™ NX1950 integrated network attached storage
- Dell PowerVault MD3000 disk storage array
- Dell PowerEdge™ 2950 and PowerEdge 1950 servers

##### **SOFTWARE:**

- Microsoft® Exchange Server 2003
- Microsoft SQL Server™ 2005
- Microsoft Windows® Unified Data Storage Server

##### **SERVICES:**

- Dell Infrastructure Consulting Services

Ultimately, the new storage environment will help Juris offer its customers even better products. "Because our Dell storage solution helps enhance worker productivity and frees up employee time from administrative tasks, we can remain focused on developing new, innovative products," says Maffei. "We're confident that our customers will see the difference."

**Microsoft®**

**DELL™**

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