



CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

EDF & Scality

Energy/Global 2000

It's not about the storage, it's about the data. EDF has seen the highly disruptive effects of having a data storage outage, and Scality RING is central to their strategy for making sure that doesn't happen again. Because their Scality RING Software-Defined Storage provides exceptional resilience and availability, EDF's IT engineering team can confidently ensure the data is there—when and where it's needed—and that they can grow storage capacity without limits or interruptions to incorporate multiple use cases across functional areas in the EDF family.



Stability, Availability & Reliability

This is the #1 concern for EDF because access to data — everything from customer service files, to architectural schematics for power plants — is vital to success.



Low TCO

EDF is seeing a 50% cost reduction using Scality RING versus the competitors.



Easy Scalability Without Downtime

Success means growth. Storage has to scale without interruption of service because availability is paramount.

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Électricité de France SA produces, markets, and distributes electricity, as well as a wide range of natural gas, electricity and energy eco-efficiency services. A significant enterprise, EDF is ranked #146 on the 2017 Forbes 2000, and employs more than 150,000 people.

Stable and Resilient

It's absolutely paramount that data be available. Through disk failures, server outages, upgrades — data must be accessible to meet compliance, safety, and general business requirements. "It's visible to customers when there's a

"Its stability is the most impressive thing about Scality RING. In the end, it's the category's best software."

Ruggero Gatti, Data Management Engineer, EDF

Award-Winning Innovation with Software-Defined Object Storage

IT is a small organization within the massive EDF group, but it bears huge responsibility. And it's performing impressively well. Ruggero Gatti's team was just presented an award for innovation—and the innovation that won them the honor was their deployment of the Scality RING. "They consider lots of ideas at the production level for these awards," said Gatti, Data Management Engineer at EDF. "The idea is to recognize that even in a big, conventional organization, we can innovate. Our Scality RING deployment won an innovation award because it brought strong, resilient storage for multiple use cases at half the cost of competitive solutions."

problem," said Ruggero. "A few years ago the company had a major issue with its high-end storage: three disks failed, and that resulted in loss of access to data for three days." That outage had a major impact on customer service—and the people who deliver it. The customer service call center team couldn't pull up customer information, so, essentially, couldn't help customers for those three days. "If they had to go one more day without data access, there would have been a strike," added Ruggero.

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Business Benefits

Stability and Availability

Data availability is the number one concern for EDF. The fact that the Scality RING can tolerate the loss of an entire data center and part of another — and can be upgraded and expanded with no downtime, no loss of availability — is critical to maintaining the organization's zero RPO objective.

Cost Savings

The Scality RING solution came in at 50% of the cost of the alternatives. Better reliability at a better price point is a win-win.

A Modern Software-Defined Solution

Scality RING represents modernization for EDF. This, their first foray into software-defined storage, won the team an innovation award.

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Putting the RING to Work

Gatti and his team brought Scality RING in for proof-of-concept testing after considering a few different categories of new technology, including the hyperconverged, virtualization and software-defined categories. Of course, good technology and good ideas aren't worth much without a use case, and they had a few lined up. They ran it through a battery of tests to validate its data integrity and availability capabilities, check its performance and ensure compatibility with applications. "We ran tests against EMC Isilon and IBM Spectrum Scale (formerly Cleversafe), and Scality performed extremely well," said Gatti. "In the end it's the category's best software." The technical tests went well, so the next stage for the IT engineering organization was to hand off to production IT for the "go-live" stage of use for the first two use cases: backup and big data.

- **Backup:** Configured as an advanced file type device (AFTD), Scality RING holds full monthly backups written to it by Dell EMC NetWorker. Stretched across two data centers, these backups enable EDF to achieve its zero RPO objective.
- **Big Data:** As a data lake for the company's big data applications using

Elasticsearch, Scality RING is offloading expensive primary storage, while keeping the data easily and readily available when it's needed.

More Use Cases

The recognition they received with the innovation awards has piqued interest from other departments as well. For example, the archiving team is in the process of digitizing and enhancing paper schematics and doing 3D modeling and simulation work for the utility's power plants and other physical plants. Like the big data application, the key in this application is to have a storage solution that bridges the gap between long-term data storage and analytics. The data needs to be stored now, and for a long time, but having it available and searchable so that value can be extracted from it over time brings huge benefits.

Success

How does Ruggero Gatti measure success for the Scality RING deployment? "It's about the adoption rate. Expanding the Scality RING, that will mean success." With two use cases already operational and several more being investigated, it appears that measure of success is well within reach.

Solution Components

Software-Defined Storage

- Scality RING with File and Object Storage Interfaces
- Geo-distributed across two sites

Hardware

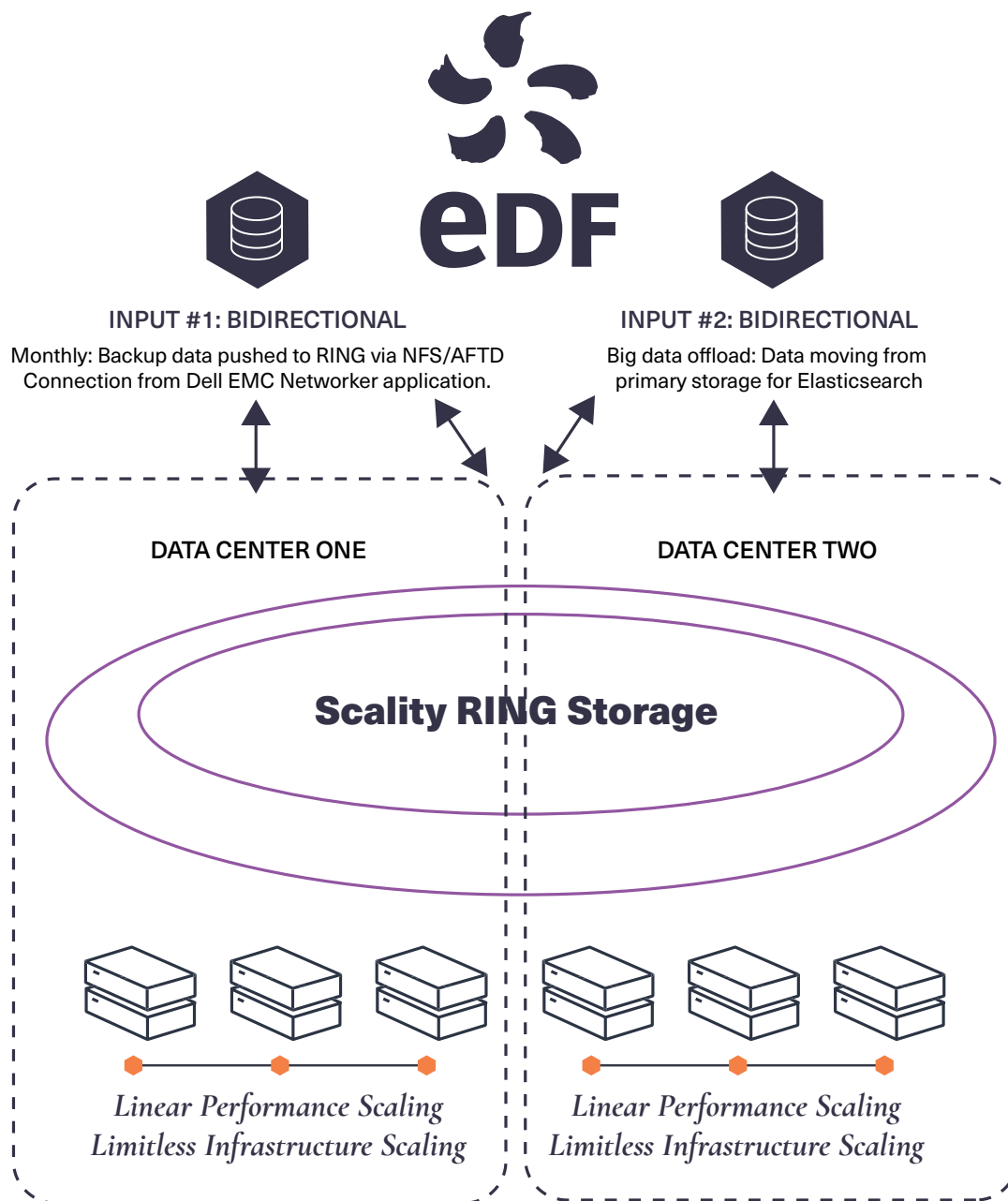
- 12 HPE Apollo 4200 and 6 HPE DL380 gen 9 12LFF storage servers

Third-Party Applications

- Dell EMC NetWorker, Elasticsearch



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Scality® storage propels companies to unify data management no matter where data lives — from edge to core to cloud. Our market-leading file and object storage software protects data on-premises and in hybrid and multi-cloud environments. With **RING** and **ARTESCA**, Scality's approach to managing data across the enterprise accelerates business insight for sound decision-making and maximum return on investment. To compete in a data-driven economy, IT leaders and application developers trust Scality to build sustainable, adaptable solutions. Scality is recognized as a leader by Gartner and IDC.

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