

# How Blue Connections Designed and Facilitated a Multisite Infrastructure Upgrade for the AWTA



## Overview

The Australian Wool Testing Authority (AWTA) provides independent wool certification services at laboratory sites in Melbourne and Fremantle. After an initial RFQ process, Blue Connections, having installed AWTA's existing infrastructure 5 years prior, won the RFQ and undertook a comprehensive replacement of existing hardware in the company's multi-site environment.

## The Challenge

With current servers and storage solutions out of warranty and out of maintenance, AWTA required an upgrade in order to safeguard against potential security and operational vulnerabilities, and to bring currency to their IT framework.

Because business service resilience was identified as a critical component of the proposed solution, the following core requirements were specified:

- Storage Solution to support 64TB of Primary Site Storage and 64TB of Secondary Site Storage
- Multi-Site Data and Service Resilience
- Simplicity in design, implementation, and management,
- Flexibility to meet changing business requirements
- Common and widely adopted solution with broad vendor and community knowledge/support
- Enterprise feature rich with functionality providing value and cost savings
- Data resilience

*"The proposed solution has allowed AWTA to become fully cloud based in the future if they wish to do so and with major developments to software and hardware over the past 5 years, they will see significant performance improvements from the upgrade."*

Anne Drebing, Senior Account Executive, Blue Connections

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## The Solution

With an in-depth knowledge of AWTA's needs due to the existing relationship and previous successful infrastructure projects, Blue Connections was perfectly placed to assess and fulfil these requirements.

AWTA were presented with two solution options. The preferred option was a 'traditional' DataCore IT infrastructure stack with separated components, which was subsequently implemented. This included a refresh of the existing infrastructure environment and VMware hosts with new Lenovo hypervisor servers, DataCore operating software, and Lenovo storage.

While both proposals leveraged DataCore, AWTA ultimately went with the Lenovo DataCore solution which allowed them the option of migrating to a purely virtualised infrastructure in the future, as well as more sophisticated and standardised environment management.

## The Results

By selecting a solution closely aligned to their current set up, the AWTA IT team was able to transition between the old and new infrastructure with minimal difficulty and zero negative impact on end-users.

## 5 X Improved Performance

In the five years since the AWTA's previous infrastructure upgrade there had been major improvements in both the underlying hardware and software.

Shun Rangasamy, Solutions Architect at the AWTA estimates that the system performance has increased by at least a factor of 5. This can be put down to the Lenovo's extensive research and development program. Similarly, the DataCore software has significantly improved, with increased flexibility and a much more friendly user interface, also improvement to network from 1GB to 10GB.

The new system has enabled the AWTA to operate at multiple sites with minimal external hardware, to easily onboard additional sites, and the option move to a virtualised cloud environment if they wish to do so in the future.

This solution also offers interstate data access and solves the dual replication and redundancy problem that is common with multiple sites, as well as securing back up integrity, disaster recovery and data availability.

## About Blue Connections

Blue Connections is a provider of best-in-class IT solutions to Australian Enterprises and local and state government departments. We are proud to serve some of Australia's best known and established companies as well as organisations navigating the challenges of business growth.

Established in 1997, we have grown our business by helping customers grow theirs. We partner with our clients to tailor technology solutions that support desired business outcomes and allow them to focus on what they do best. In doing so, we design, supply, implement and manage end-to-end technology solutions and services.

Blue Connections are proud to be a Lenovo Platinum Partner.