# SUSE Enterprise Storage solution for Healthcare sector

**September 2020**

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The importance of data in the healthcare industry cannot be underestimated – information is often described as the lifeblood of the NHS, and is a vital asset for the clinical management of individual patients as well as the efficient running of services throughout the NHS. The future use of artificial intelligence and predictive analytics is anticipated to transform health services, but will rely on instant access to large amounts of data. The NHS differs from other businesses in that downtime doesn't put profits at risk, but people's lives instead, so security and stability are essential.

#### Data Growth

Data is growing at an almost incomprehensible rate – analysts IDC predict that the collective sum of the world's data will grow from 35 zettabytes (one zettabyte is a billion terabytes) in 2018 to 175ZB by 2025. The NHS is already storing a vast amount of data, which will continue to grow substantially year-on-year. With many teams across the health service using aging, proprietary hardware platforms that are costly to upgrade or replace, combined with the challenges of rising costs, limited staff and skillsets along with already stretched budgets, surely there must be a better solution?
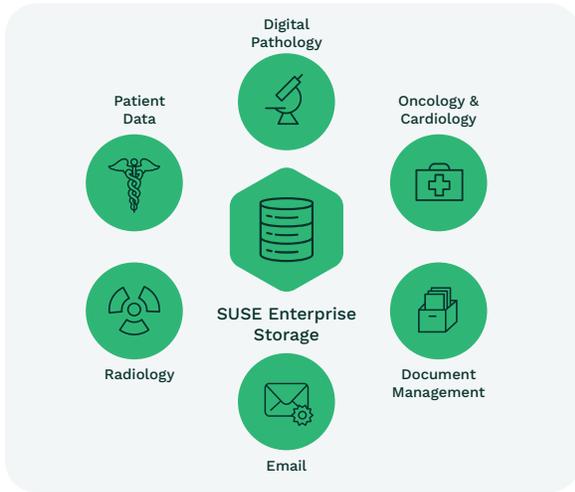
### THE ADVANTAGES OF OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE-DEFINED STORAGE

Software-defined storage (or SDS) provides two immediate advantages – decoupling the hardware from the software plane and cost reduction. At a basic level, SDS separates the control plane from specific applications; supporting hardware can then be pooled so that resources are shared. The result is an immediate boost to capacity without adding hardware—an immediate 'more with less'. This gives organizations more choice over what hardware they use for their storage. Instead of costly, proprietary storage arrays, companies, selecting software-defined storage products like SUSE Enterprise Storage, can use industry-standard hardware that gives them a wider choice as well as reducing hardware and licensing costs substantially.

Open source software offers two key ingredients that help to meet the data explosion challenge facing the NHS. The first is obvious: deep cost savings, with the sharp reduction not only of hardware costs, but also the elimination of proprietary software costs. The second advantage, perhaps not as obvious, is ultimately more compelling: it's the enterprise future-proofing that comes with stepping out of the proprietary market share wars and getting on board with a shared development of product roadmaps that end-users can actually influence and contribute towards.

SUSE Enterprise Storage, powered by Ceph, offers file, block and object storage within one unified solution, and is highly suited to a number of demanding NHS use cases. These include large image storage for radiology, digital pathology, oncology and cardiology; secure storage for document management and patient admin systems (e.g. retroactive scanning, scanned patient records, EMCs, etc.); file system storage for general storage and in-house systems, admin systems, emails, etc. While it is particularly well suited to these use cases, it can handle almost anything the health service may require of a storage system. SUSE delivers enterprise-grade features such as erasure coding for redundancy and availability, thin provisioning for optimal storage usage and allocation, cloning for disaster recovery, load balancing and automated tiering between flash and hard drives for optimal performance, ease of use and maintenance, coupled with unprecedented levels of scalability for investment protection. And, it delivers compelling TCO vs on premise arrays and even the cloud.

| SUSE Select Services Tier | ★ | ★★ | ★★★ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Named Engineer | 15 Service Requests per year | 30 Service Requests per year | Unlimited Service Requests |
| Response Time | 1 hour | 30 minutes | 15 minutes |
| Health Check / Patch Updates | Annual / Quarterly | Quarterly / Quarterly | Monthly / Quarterly |
| Onsite visits | ✖ | Up to 2 days per year | Up to 4 days per year |
| Consulting | 5 days | 10 days | 20 days |
| Service Delivery Manager | ✖ | ✔ | ✔ |

### ADDRESSING THE SKILLS GAP

Implementing open source solutions can cut hardware and software costs, but if you don't have the staff and skills in-house, then expensive contractors and support contracts can quickly negate those cost savings. SUSE has a range of consulting and support services to guide customers on their digital transformation journey, ranging from discovery and design, to deployment, optimization and on-site support services. Our consultants will not just share best practices and provide technical expertise, but they will also offer insight into emerging trends and technologies.

### FAST TRACK YOUR SOFTWARE-DEFINED STORAGE WITH SUSE SERVICES

Start with SUSE Discovery Services to discover the right solutions for your business; continue with SUSE Assist: Design Services to map out your implementation. Continue your journey with SUSE Select Services for implementation and optimization of your SDS solution.

SUSE SELECT SERVICES is the perfect complement to SUSE Enterprise Storage, providing a tailored blend of consulting, maintenance, support services and knowledge transfer to ensure rapid return on investment. With three tiers, you have the flexibility to choose the level of service that matches your changing business needs, jumpstarts implementation and keeps systems and solutions running smoothly.

Enterprises large and small are turning to SUSE Enterprise Storage not just to reduce costs, but to increase capacity, simplify management, deliver seamless replication and provide scale-out performance. Speak to a member of the SUSE team or one of our partners to find out how SUSE could help you to cut the costs of your storage infrastructure and deliver a future-proofed, scalable environment that can cope with your data now and tomorrow.

# Thank You