

Non-Profit

Transforming IT to make a **bigger impact**

Blairlogie Living & Learning

Non-profit Blairlogie embraces a high-availability, hybrid cloud infrastructure built on Lenovo ThinkAgile MX Series, powered by Microsoft Windows Server built-in software-defined storage (S2D). Now it has the performance, scale, and availability it needs to bring vital support and services to more people than ever before.



Lenovo

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Who is Blairlogie Living & Learning?

Blairlogie Living & Learning Inc. is a non-profit organization that supports people living with a disability. Based in Victoria, Australia, Blairlogie aims to improve individuals' opportunities for learning, growth, and community participation.



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The Challenge

Since its foundation 35 years ago, Blairlogie has been committed to helping people with disabilities achieve their goals and pursue their interests, whether it's finding a job, living on their own, or building new skills. The organization is always working to extend its support to more people—a mission that's put it on an impressive growth trajectory in recent years.

Erna Scott, IT and Quality Coordinator at Blairlogie, elaborates: “We’ve been working hard to expand the scale and scope of our services, so we can help more people live the lives they want to. We’ve been launching new initiatives, like Project 28, where we aim to build 28 independent living units for adults with disabilities by 2028. There’s been a lot of change, and our IT systems were struggling to keep up with it.”

For years, Blairlogie ran its business on a single bare metal server, and relentless growth was pushing this physical infrastructure to the limits of performance and capacity. As its existing infrastructure reached end of lifecycle, the organization teamed up with long-time IT partner SolutionOne to review its options—and took the opportunity to try something new.



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“We were growing very fast: in two years, our team almost doubled from 80 to more than 150 people. Our IT was just not coping with the increased demand, and we urgently needed more computing power and capacity.”

Erna Scott

IT & Quality Coordinator, Blairlogie Living & Learning

Hybrid cloud and high availability take hold

Trusted technology partners to Blairlogie for over five years, SolutionOne recommended a hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI) solution based on the Lenovo ThinkAgile MX Series, a technology powered by Microsoft Windows Server built-in software-defined storage (S2D). By leveraging these technologies, Blairlogie could embrace a hybrid cloud strategy, keeping certain applications on-premises while extending other workloads to the Azure cloud.

Working closely with SolutionOne, Blairlogie designed, built, and deployed a HCI platform based on Lenovo ThinkAgile MX Series. Thanks to careful planning, the organization was able to complete a seamless live migration to the new environment, with no downtime or weekend work.

Hardware


Lenovo ThinkAgile MX Series

Software

Lenovo XClarity
Microsoft Storage Spaces
Direct (S2D)
Microsoft Windows Server
Datacenter Edition

Services

Lenovo Premier Support



The new HCI platform is a two-node cluster, sized to meet Blairlogie's on-premises requirements and set up in a high-availability configuration. Both nodes are currently housed at the same data center; the organization is in the process of setting up a secondary site and eventually plans to spread the cluster across two locations for greater resilience.

Blairlogie makes use of Lenovo XClarity to centrally manage and monitor its hybrid environment of on-premises and Azure cloud services. Today, it runs domain, email, file, and terminal servers across six virtual machines (VMs). Meanwhile, the organization's intranet, customer relationship management (CRM), HR, and learning management systems all run in the Azure cloud. Blairlogie uses a third-party service for backups, which are stored both on-site and in the cloud.



“Our operations run entirely on Lenovo: in addition to the new ThinkAgile MX Series, we use ThinkCentre PCs in the office and our managers all have ThinkPad laptops. We continue to use Lenovo hardware because it's very easy to use and we trust it to deliver the reliability and performance we need.”

Erna Scott

IT & Quality Coordinator, Blairlogie Living & Learning

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Results

The move to an HCI platform has brought big improvements to performance and resiliency at a comparatively small cost. Lenovo's high-density, high-performance CPUs and all-flash storage allow the organization to support a variety of workloads within a small infrastructure footprint.

"Lenovo ThinkAgile MX Series has been a major upgrade from our old bare metal server," confirms Erna Scott. "End users noticed the difference from day one, and we've seen enormous performance improvements for Microsoft Exchange workloads in particular."

As the new infrastructure has been designed with high availability in mind, Blairlogie also benefits from better uptime and business continuity. When a recent power supply issue resulted in an outage on one node, the cluster set-up meant the organization was able to seamlessly fail over to the second node without incurring downtime.

With the increased scale, availability, and performance it's built up with Lenovo and Microsoft, Blairlogie is taking its non-profit services to the next level. Teams can now count on reliable, round-the-clock access to the information and systems they need to work effectively.

Likewise, Blairlogie can continue growing to deliver greater impact for its community, safe in the knowledge that its HCI platform is there to support it all.



Hybrid approach combines on-premises reliability with cloud's scale and agility



Lifted performance and capacity to support growing numbers of users and workloads



High-availability architecture ensures uninterrupted access to information and services



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“We’ve seen a huge difference since we started running on the new HCI platform. It really makes life easier for us. With the Lenovo ThinkAgile MX Series and support from SolutionOne, we have the foundation we need to make an even bigger difference in people’s lives.”

Erna Scott

IT & Quality Coordinator, Blairlogie Living & Learning

Why Lenovo?

Blairlogie immediately saw the value of the Lenovo ThinkAgile MX Series, as Erna Scott recalls: “Lenovo ThinkAgile MX Series was new to us, but we were quickly sold on the benefits of a HCI platform. There’s a great degree of power, flexibility, and resilience that’s built into the platform, which solved our immediate needs and gave us plenty of room to grow. Going with Lenovo was really a no-brainer.”

Even better, as a non-profit organization, Blairlogie was eligible for Microsoft’s Connecting Up program. This allowed the organization to get a fully licensed modernized platform using Lenovo ThinkAgile MX Series with Windows Server Datacenter Edition at a special discounted price—making the overall solution a much more affordable option for Blairlogie.

How do you bring support and services to a growing community?

Making a meaningful impact on more people's lives, supported by Lenovo and Microsoft technology.

[Explore Lenovo ThinkAgile](#)

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