

Qumulo's ease of use and real-time analytics help the University of Florida gain insights into its research computing data

The University of Florida is a comprehensive learning institution built on a land-grant foundation. Now ranked #7 among all U.S. public universities, the “Gator Nation” is dedicated to excellence in education and research, and shaping a better future for Florida, the nation, and the world. The university’s mission is to enable students to lead and influence for the greater good, empower its worldclass research faculty to new discoveries and innovation, and provide best-in-class clinical and outreach services across the state and around the world.

UFIT’s Research Computing department provides the infrastructure, proposal, and consulting services to give researchers a competitive edge. Within the Research Computing group are IT experts tasked with providing the tools and computational facilities for faculty. UF faculty are creating, storing, accessing, and managing big data, and need highly accessible tools to conduct their research. UFIT’s goal is to help the university’s researchers find the next answer, the next cure, and the next forward innovation.

The Search for an Easier, Less Hands-On File Storage System

As demands for more capacity and performance grew on UF’s legacy storage system — including the need to support better data analytics and virtualization initiatives — UF’s existing storage infrastructure was quickly becoming obsolete.

UFIT evaluated the marketplace offerings for a more modern, scalable solution that would require less attention and less hands-on management. A major factor in the purchasing decision was the Research Computing staff’s desire to have a “set-it and forget-it” type of file system could be installed easily, with a simple-to-use interface. UFIT chose the Qumulo storage system called Hybrid Cloud File Storage in a fully on-premise implementation.



Use Case

- Access to highly accessible tools for their researchers
- Managing big data
- Supporting growing data volumes

Requirements

- High Performance
- Simple-to-use interface
- Real-time analytics
- Scalability

Customer Delight and Real-Time Visibility Put Qumulo Ahead of the Competition

When it came time to evaluate systems, System Administrator Eric Tomeo was among the members of UFIT evaluating the options. Tomeo stated there was one major factor that set Qumulo apart from the competition:

"What sealed the decision for us was Qumulo's customer support," Tomeo said. "We wanted a storage system where the vendor has a true investment in seeing us succeed and where we wouldn't solely be relied upon for all of the support. Knowing that Qumulo's customer success team is easily accessible through its Slack channel, for example, those kinds of things were a huge advantage over everyone else we looked at. It's great to get a response and get people together for a quick answer, without having to look through documentation or go through customer support queues over the phone."

Similarly, ensuring that the new system could accommodate UFIT's growing data volumes was another deciding factor. The ability to add nodes gave UFIT the ability to scale more easily. Qumulo's real-time analytics provided valuable information for UFIT about system users' data and how they are utilizing the university's storage resources. "The visibility into our system and our metrics is obviously far superior to anything we've had before, and it's given us some good insights into details we never had access to previously. Another key reason for selecting Qumulo is having the analytics easily accessible and visible to us. It's been great to see the data about our storage, and quickly troubleshoot where potential issues could be in a cluster, even outside of the Qumulo system," said Tomeo.

"Everything here works!"

How would Tomeo describe Qumulo's file system to his colleagues? "One of the main criteria for determining storage system success is how easily it can be managed, where staff don't have to search for which option or setting to adjust to make it do something. Being able to confidently say that it's really easy to manage. Everything here (with Qumulo) works!"

About the University of Florida

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About Qumulo

Qumulo is the leader in enterprise-proven hybrid cloud file storage, providing real-time visibility, scale and control of your data across on-prem and cloud. **For more information, visit www.qumulo.com**