74%
less hands-on time for in-house admins

85%
less project-planning time

3x
as fast to deploy and configure

Follow best practices to ensure proper deployment

Be production-ready sooner by using ProDeploy Plus for Enterprise

Dell EMC ProDeploy Plus for Enterprise services deployed and configured new storage resources and data protection appliances faster than an in-house administrator

In modern business, data is the most valuable asset you possess. Data will continue to grow rapidly for the foreseeable future, with the collective sum of the world's data potentially quintupling by 2025.[1] Storing, protecting, and using that data should be high priority items for any organization. How quickly you can add new storage, data protection, servers, and networking to your data center affects how fast you can monetize that data and how much you can keep your staff focused on running the business.

IT teams deploying new hardware face many challenges, including spending too much time researching best practices or planning deployment. For Dell EMC™ storage arrays, Integrated Data Protection Appliances (IDPA), and servers, you can speed deployment and help your administrators by choosing to use ProDeploy Plus for Enterprise services.

Because ProDeploy Plus for Enterprise engineers deliver product-specific expertise, reliable processes, and depth of knowledge in best practices, Dell EMC-certified engineers installed and configured Dell EMC Unity™ storage and an IDPA solution in our data center at Principled Technologies faster than an in-house resource. Not only would your organization benefit from getting production-ready storage sooner, but your administrators can spend time focusing on other key tasks during the deployment, such as working with other teams to plan for an application migration.

Adding new resources to your data center is necessary to keep up with the demands of data growth. This report explains how you can get Dell EMC storage and data protection quickly and make your administrators' lives easier and accelerate time to value.

Cut down on IT staff involvement during deployment

In our data center, we asked three ProDeploy Plus for Enterprise certified engineers from Dell Technologies Services to deploy the same Dell EMC Unity storage and IDPA solution that our in-house resource deployed. The advantage is simple for administrators: they spend less time involved in storage and IDPA deployment and use time more efficiently when their organization leverages ProDeploy Plus. With the time they saved on planning and executing deployment, organizations can then speed up other critical IT projects. In addition, ProDeploy Plus for Enterprise can reduce storage and IDPA deployment time overall, allowing organizations to modernize their infrastructure faster and more quickly monetize important data.

With ProDeploy Plus, Dell EMC handled the bulk of the load from planning logistics through the final stages of the IDPA deployment. This allowed our in-house administrator, who worked with the Dell EMC-certified engineers, to have fewer schedule constraints during many stages.

Without ProDeploy Plus, our in-house administrator spent nearly 20 more hours on the deployment. Comparing the two overall deployment times from planning to completion, using ProDeploy Plus for Enterprise reduced our administrator's time commitment by 74 percent. Your IT team could apply the time savings from using ProDeploy Plus for Enterprise to strategic data center initiatives that boost your business's value.

Required involvement from in-house admin
Less time is better

with ProDeploy Plus

| 7h 41min |

without ProDeploy Plus

| 29h 53min |
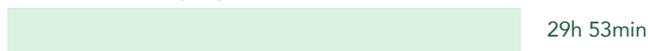
In-house hands-on admin time with ProDeploy Plus includes planning, learning & design time, Dell EMC Unity configuration time, and IDPA configuration time. It excludes hardware setup time, as ProDeploy Plus for Enterprise engineers completed this without requiring in-house admin assistance or time.

Need more data center resources? No problem, you can still save time.

We know that no one solution is right for all organizations. Sometimes organizations need more compute resources to run critical applications and to meet certain service level agreement (SLA) demands. Based on one of our previous studies, ProDeploy Plus could save time on server and networking configuration alone as part of a full deployment.[2]

In the previous study, a Dell EMC-certified engineer configured four Dell EMC PowerEdge™ servers and four networking switches in 56 percent less time than an in-house administrator. The chart below compares the configuration times. Configuration includes tasks such as verifying server health, installing the operating system or hypervisor, running updates, and configuring top of rack (TOR) and fibre channel switches.

Configure four servers and four switches
Less time is better

with ProDeploy

| 4h 15min |

without ProDeploy

| 9h 42min |

This report shows that ProDeploy Plus for Enterprise can speed and ease Unity storage and IDPA deployment and configuration to a pre-existing server and network environment. If you want to add Dell EMC servers and switches to your Unity and IDPA solution, you could see similar time savings by using ProDeploy Plus.[3]

Streamline deployment planning with a Dell EMC project manager

Carefully planning storage deployment helps organizations meet their current demands while potentially creating room for growth. But planning can be time consuming and complicated. Project managers must consider internal processes, gather and read supporting documentation, and acquire proper toolsets. Failure to validate compatibility or power and connectivity requirements, determine site readiness, and review best practices before deployment can cause serious delays.

Choosing ProDeploy Plus for Enterprise to deploy your Dell EMC storage and backup can ease these planning stage burdens on your organization. Dell EMC assigns a dedicated, experienced team (including a project manager and engineer) to guide you through the deployment planning and handle the physical installation and software configuration. In our experience, the Dell EMC project manager who deployed our solution gathered and documented the project requirements and helped an in-house administrator develop a detailed project roadmap and implementation plan, highlighting critical path items and best practices. This allowed the deployment to move forward with little involvement from us. We used some of this time to arrange for the Dell EMC-certified engineer's arrival to complete the deployment.

Solution topology

Top of rack 1Gb switch

Dell EMC DS-6620B fibre channel switch

2x Dell EMC PowerEdge servers

Dell EMC Integrated Data Protection Appliance DP4400

Dell EMC Unity 300
Dell EMC Unity 350F
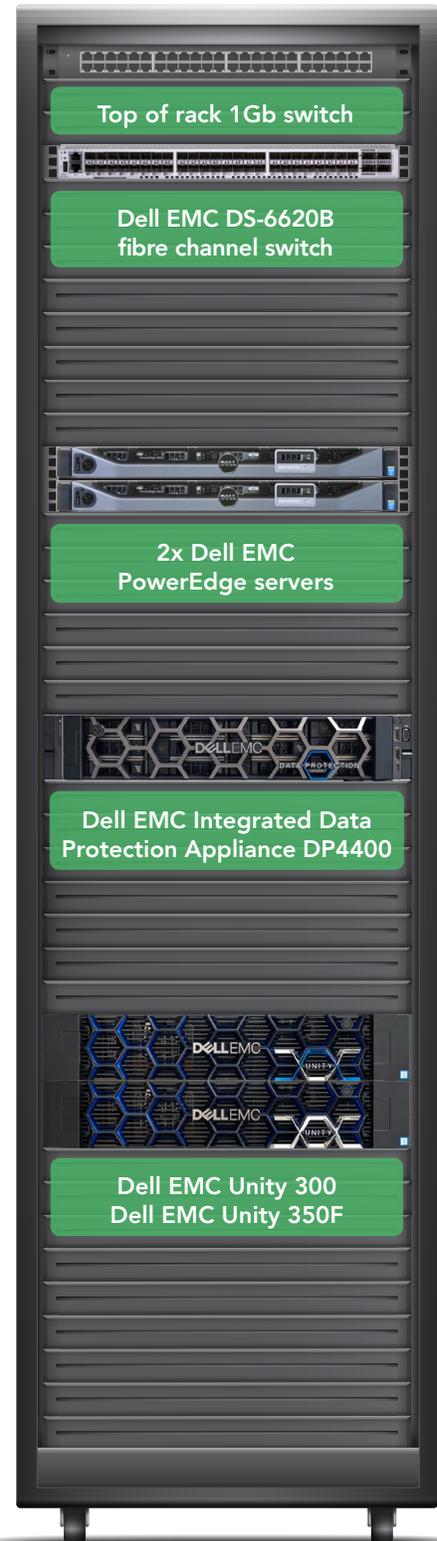
Deployments in detail: ProDeploy Plus for Enterprise vs. an in-house administrator

Over the course of three business days, the Dell EMC-certified engineers from ProDeploy Plus for Enterprise services spent 9 hours and 55 minutes installing and configuring the Dell EMC Unity storage and IDPA solution. Without ProDeploy Plus, we spent 29 hours and 53 minutes installing and configuring the solution over eight business days. Our in-house resource spent at least 8 hours a day working on the deployment, but a typical administrator might only be able to spend 3 to 4 hours of their schedule each day. This could seriously delay prepping the solution for a production-ready workload.

The table below breaks down the total time (in hours and minutes) spent on each stage of installation and configuration. Highlights include the following:

- Without ProDeploy Plus, an in-house administrator spent over 16 hours (or two full business days) designing the topology and reading administrator guides and installation material for the Dell EMC Unity 300 and 350F arrays and the IDPA DP4400. He was generally familiar with enterprise data center technology but not familiar with these specific arrays and appliance, so he needed to rely on documentation for guidance.
- Configuring the IDPA with ProDeploy Plus for Enterprise saved over 6 hours. It took the Dell EMC engineer slightly over 3 hours, but it took an in-house administrator more than a full business day.
- Planning for the solution with ProDeploy Plus for Enterprise saved a sizable chunk of time—over 14 hours (85 percent less time). The advantage with ProDeploy Plus for Enterprise can be attributed to the project manager's familiarity with the solution.

Stage	In-house deployment	ProDeploy Plus for Enterprise	Percent less time with ProDeploy Plus for Enterprise
Planning, learning, & design	16:25	2:22	85%
Hardware setup	1:38	2:14	
Dell EMC Unity configuration	2:19	2:05	10%
IDPA configuration	9:31	3:14	66%
Total time	**29:53**	**9:55**	
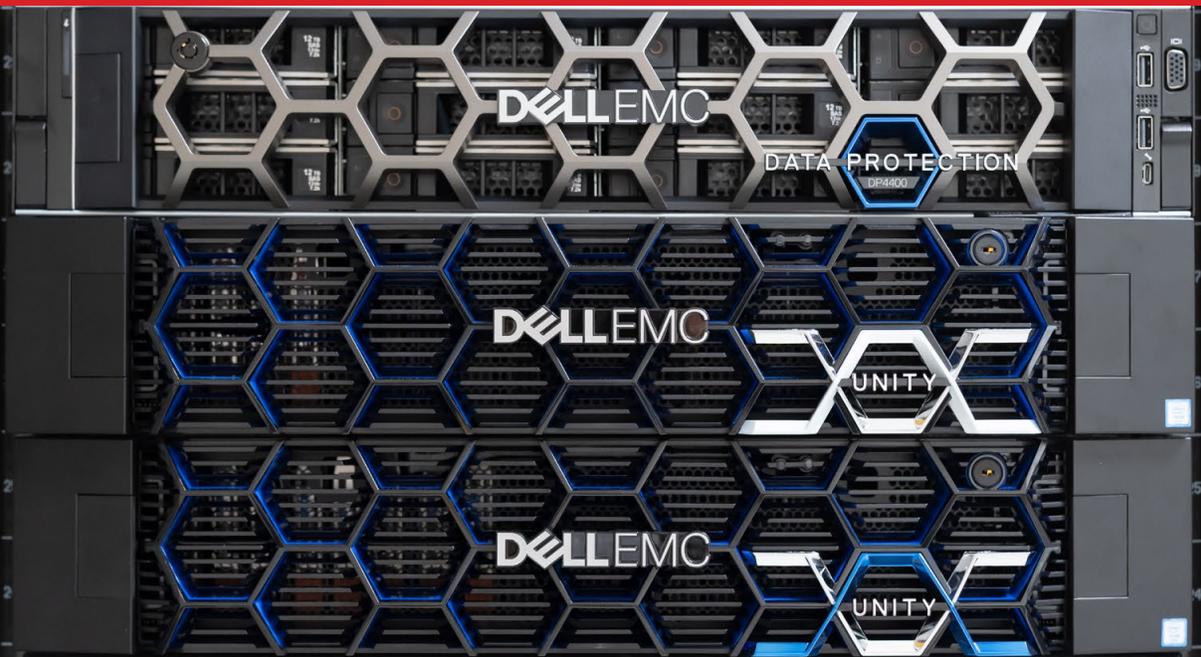
Conclusion

Choosing ProDeploy Plus for Enterprise to install and configure new Dell EMC storage resources, data protection appliances, servers, and networking appliances means your organization can modernize your IT infrastructure quickly while your in-house administrators focus on empowering your data-driven business. In our data center:

- Installing and configuring a Dell EMC Unity storage and IDPA solution with ProDeploy Plus for Enterprise took 74 percent less in-house administrator time.
- The three Dell EMC-certified engineers needed not quite 10 hours over three business days to deploy the Dell EMC solution.
- Without ProDeploy Plus, it took more than 29 hours over eight business days for an in-house administrator to install and configure the same solution.
- The Dell EMC-certified engineers installed and configured the Dell EMC Unity storage and IDPA solution three times as fast, saving almost 20 hours and allowing an in-house administrator to focus on organizational demands and other strategic initiatives.

With ProDeploy Plus, your organization can realize a faster, more efficient data center resources deployment with minimal impact on your in-house IT staff.

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1   Reinsel, David, John Gantz, and John Rydning, "The Digitization of the World: From Edge to Core," accessed May 6, 2019, https://www.seagate.com/files/www-content/our-story/trends/files/idc-seagate-dataage-whitepaper.pdf

2   You can read our full February 2018 report "Bring new systems to production readiness faster and with less effort from in-house administrators" here: https://www.principledtechnologies.com/Dell/Deploying_new_solutions_with_ProDeploy_0218.pdf.

3   Since the previous study, Dell has adjusted the branding of ProDeploy services. This study leveraged ProDeploy Plus. We believe the services provided in this study and in the previous one are comparable.

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This project was commissioned by Dell Technologies.