

IWI Consulting Helps Prepare Therapure Biopharma for Growth

The Challenge

Therapure Biopharma was running their large manufacturing facility with an old IT Infrastructure, which was causing system crashes, performance and reliability issues and prevented them from integrating new technology.

The Solution

IWI Consulting Group, with expertise in hardware and virtualization, was able to completely update the Therapure Biopharma infrastructure with new enterprise blade servers, SAN and CISCO security systems and network.

The Result

Therapure Biopharma now has a reliable, secure and efficient system, better processes and increased capacity which enables them to grow their company easily and affordably.

Therapure Biopharma Inc. is a biopharmaceutical company that develops, manufactures, purifies, and packages therapeutic proteins. Therapeutic proteins are the future of medicine, already representing one-third of all new drugs. However, proteins are challenging to work with because they are highly complex. To successfully manufacture them, unique hands-on experience as well as a disciplined, quality-focused approach is of the utmost importance.



With a modern 130,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility in Mississauga, Ontario, Therapure Biopharma successfully meets or exceeds the requirements of multiple regulatory agencies. Their high standards and expertise allow them to develop effective and innovative solutions in order to advance their client's products from the lab to the market. However, their twelve year old IT infrastructure was proving problematic as Therapure was growing.

Unstable and Unreliable Infrastructure

Therapure would experience system crashes in addition to performance and reliability issues. This had a direct impact on company productivity and resulted in frustrated users. Furthermore, integrating old technology with new technology was difficult, if not impossible, and Therapure was missing cost saving opportunities integration often brings. While the IT staff did their best, the availability and integrity of the system required far more effort than it should have.

Peter Winkley, Vice President of Finance and CFO recalled, "We had not upgraded for quite some time and much of the system had been patched together. Our IT team was spending all of their time putting out fires. We needed to make some changes to enable them to focus efforts on planning for the future." Therapure began the search for a replacement platform and a partner to help manage the project.

Therapure Biopharma had utilized the experts at IWI Consulting Group during an accounting system project several years prior. When a decision was made to invest in new infrastructure the team at IWI was naturally included in the bidding process. "We had a very positive experience with IWI previously," stated Peter. "They showed creativity in their solution plans for our new project and the price was competitive, so we ended up selecting them for the job."

A Vision for the Future

In preparing for the upgrade, IWI completed a detailed systems inventory and helped define the vision for what the business would look like when the project was complete. IWI was then able to identify the equipment required. Gilroy Ponniah from IWI Consulting Group recalls, "We replaced the IT infrastructure with enterprise level Dell blade servers, a Dell EqualLogic storage area network, Cisco ASA firewall and switches so that Therapure could handle their projected growth with more processing power in less rack space. This also simplified cabling and reduced the amount of power consumption necessary. As a result, the new infrastructure requires very little management and allows Therapure to better utilize the efforts of their IT personnel in other areas."

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Company Profile

Type of Business

Biopharmaceutical Manufacturer

Headquarters

Mississauga, ON

Other Information

130,000 sq. ft. facility



Additionally, IWI installed 60 new workstations, seven virtual servers to handle domain controllers, Web, file and printer share, Symantec Multi-Tier Protection, Microsoft Exchange 2007, BlackBerry and virtual center servers. The project was broad and required an up-to-the-minute understanding of the newest technologies when defining the system architecture. Gilroy stated, “We were able to get their servers running in a virtual environment which will save significant money going forward. It will

enable Therapure to add virtual servers when needed instead of server hardware. Additionally, as their IT service provider, this gives us the ability to monitor all activities remotely, eliminating the need for on-site maintenance.”

IWI also separated the guest and administrative networks to eliminate security issues, and customized the Cisco Security Appliance to reduce the amount of spam Therapure Biopharma received. As a whole, IWI was able to increase the capacity, performance and reliability of the entire system, and all a week before the project deadline. Peter said, “We’ve already seen a substantial improvement.”

Positioned for Growth

With a new secure and stable system in place, and increased flexibility and capacity, Therapure Biopharma has the infrastructure needed to continue to move forward. “We’ve got a more robust, flexible system we can build on as well as better processes as a result,” said Peter. Therapure Biopharma has already taken advantage of the new infrastructure by replacing their financial management system, and they are now in the process of introducing new project management tools and processes.

Peter stated, “The IWI team is always available when we need them. Over a holiday weekend we experienced some problems and they came in to lend an extra set of hands. It’s comforting to know that they are there for us and that we can rely on them. IWI is a great company to work with because they bring their expertise and tailor the system to meet your specific needs, thus providing the perfect end result for your company.”



System Profile

New IT Infrastructure

60 New Workstations, 10 Servers, Separate guest and administrative networks, MS Exchange 2007, Symantec Multi-Tier Protection, Virtualization, BlackBerry integration, and virtual center.



IWI Consulting Group provides consulting to small and medium sized businesses in the GTA and surrounding areas. The company is comprised of professionals who have been trained as Certified Management Accountants, business consultants, programmers, sales and marketing professionals as well as IT specialists. IWI Consulting Group’s philosophy has been built on the premise that customer service is vital to client retention and acquisition. If you need help with a business solution, we will help you find the answer, or we will build the solution.

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