EXPLORATORIUM

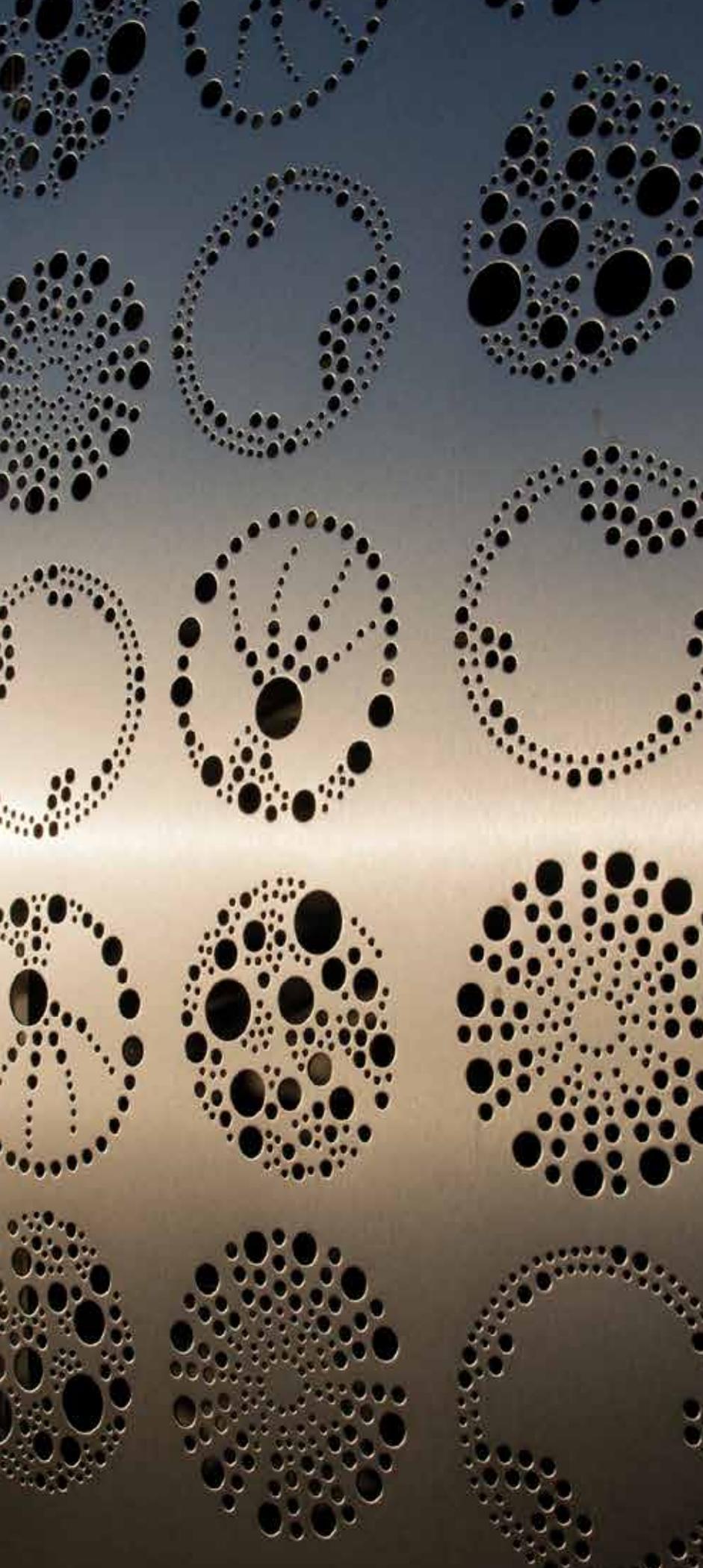## Changing The Way Science Is Taught:
When A Website Means So Much More

UNITEDLAYER
Hybrid Hosting Experts

The Exploratorium is a 21st century learning laboratory; a premier museum and exhibition hall located in San Francisco, CA.

As the museum is filled with eye-opening, thought-provoking and mind-tingling science, art exhibitions and tools, the website too is a portal for creative learning and lifelong investigation.

The Exploratorium website has over 50,000 pages of web content ranging from graphics, videos, multimedia, and applications aimed at children and adults of all ages.

With over a dozen micro-sites within the main website (each containing hundreds of learning, collaboration and research opportunities), The Exploratorium requires a hosting environment that can be counted on for **100% uptime and performance; no exceptions.**

THE PAST AND THE PRESENT

Like many organizations with demanding computing requirements, The Exploratorium employs a mix of IT infrastructure. In the past, it had set up its own on-premise servers used for building management, and some web servers for exhibits. Colocation has also played a prominent role with legacy website servers, media archiving, VOIP/IT, storage and back up.

And now with the proliferation and accessibility of the cloud, The Exploratorium employs a Private Cloud with dedicated resources to house its main corporate website which includes cloud resources virtualized for production, development and test.

"HOT-HOT"

HIGH DEMANDS AND HIGH AVAILABILITY

A critical requirement for The Exploratorium was to have a fully redundant set up. It wasn't good enough to simply have a failover in place with back-up cold drives ready to kick in at some designated threshold. The Exploratorium needed a "Hot-Hot", with two fully active implementations so that on a failover, the secondary took over immediately with zero-downtime.

The implementation required multiple independent power and utility feeds in this true High Availability set up, designed to literally provide an automatic failover.

UNITEDLAYER HYBRID CLOUD **CONNECT THROUGH VMWARE**

UnitedLayer architected and built out a fully redundant solution using VMware as the connectivity tool.

UL connected to The Exploratorium's colocation infrastructure and cross-connected to a VMware vCloud in a private dedicated network; thereby connecting their back-end colo to their back-end cloud. Being in the same private network meant not having to go through any firewalls, and consequently maintaining superior performance and security.

THE FUTURE

The "hybridization" has allowed The Exploratorium to gain more flexibility with the capability to seamlessly move virtual machines (VMs) back and forth between disparate IT infrastructures all through UnitedLayer's UnitedConnect portal. UnitedConnect provides a unified view of all its infrastructure types – on-premise, colocation and a VMware Private Cloud - all through a single interface.

With a truly "mission"-critical website with over 50,000 pages, maintaining their business and IT agility is critical for The Exploratorium. And through a partnership with UnitedLayer, it can ensure that as their IT needs evolve, so too nimbly and cost-effectively can their hybrid cloud deployment.

"We were looking for a solution that addresses our mission critical web publishing server environment that had several key features – a VMware vCloud, a LoadBalancer and Firewall in High Availability configuration and a Hybrid architecture to connect to our existing Colocation network. UnitedLayer was able to work with us to deliver this deployment in a timely manner. Most importantly, we were provided excellent service throughout the process and look forward to working with them as our IT needs evolve."

Rob Rothfarb, Online Engagement Group, The Exploratorium

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