



# Test Driving Linux with Holonyx and Emprise™ 5000

What if your data storage solution could enable you to take on a major new business initiative? That's just what happened when Rich Kopcho, chief executive officer at Holonyx, adopted a new Emprise 5000 solution from Xiotech Corporation.

## Big Ideas, Big Challenges

With fewer than 20 employees, Holonyx relies on the smarts of its staff and the power of its technologies to run and grow a successful software as a service (SaaS) business.

A significant part of the company's growth comes from a new initiative called Linux Test Drive, a Web-based service that allows users to virtually experience different Linux packages simply by logging onto [www.linuxtestdrive.org](http://www.linuxtestdrive.org). Holonyx' service will allow users to test multiple versions of the more than 400 available Linux distributions. This is the best way for those interested in Linux to experience various versions of Linux and hundreds of applications in one place and determine which best fits their needs. The site is projected to have 100,000 users a day and 5,000 users at any one time, with

*"The Emprise products... are absolutely going to revolutionize the storage industry."*

the potential to double or triple the number of users over time.

To execute this major initiative, Holonyx needed a data storage solution that met three crucial needs: extremely powerful performance with blazing speed, high reliability, and seamless scalability. Until now, there simply wasn't such a product, and executing this initiative was impossible.

## Data Storage in Shining (Blue) Armor

When Kopcho and Chief Technology Officer Garret Acott learned of Xiotech's new Emprise 5000 system, they knew it was what they

needed for the Linux Test Drive project to take off. The solution delivered the performance the project demanded, reliability to virtually eliminate service events, and scalability to accommodate any

future growth.

"The Emprise products with ISE™ (Intelligent Storage Element) technology are absolutely going to revolutionize the storage industry—and help us accelerate our own business growth," Kopcho says.



### Industry

- Software as a Service (SaaS)

### Location

- Loveland, Colorado

### Requirements

- Powerful performance
- High reliability
- Seamless scalability

### Xiotech Solution

- Emprise™ 5000

### Benefits

- Industry-leading performance to support heavy Web traffic and thousands of VMs
- No downtime or service events
- Scalability to easily meet future demands

### Operating Systems

- Linux® operating systems, including:
  - » Red Hat® Enterprise Linux and Fedora™
  - » Novell® SUSE® and openSUSE®
  - » Ubuntu® and Kubuntu®
  - » Linspire® and Freespire®
  - » Slackware®
  - » Mandriva
  - » Many more
- VMware® ESX Server
- Mac® OS

## Power to Perform

Based on a single ISE, Emprise 5000 is a complete, self-enclosed virtualized storage solution. Available in high-capacity, high-performance, and “balanced” options, the ISE modules used in the Emprise 5000 system at Holonyx are optimized to deliver the powerful performance needed by the Linux initiative.

The power and innovation behind the product also met Holonyx’ need to create independent virtual machines (VMs) for each of the Linux operating systems, which are served directly from the Emprise system, not server cache. With Emprise 5000, LinuxTestDrive.org can host hundreds of different Linux configurations and enable users to test drive them all with full functionality.

“With Emprise 5000, the impossible became possible,” says Kopcho.

## Redefining Reliable

Kopcho and Acott did not care which data storage product could be serviced better or faster. They wanted to avoid failures in the first place.

“If there is a failure with the system, our bottom line gets hit twice,” says Acott. “Once when we have to send a technician to fix the problem and again when that time is taken away from other projects he could be working on. We simply cannot afford

to have a service issue. Xiotech’s Emprise 5000 system eliminates the need for service, enabling my team to work on new projects instead of stopping to solve problems.”

ISE modules are self-healing and can fix-in-place most disk drive failures—providing more than 100 times the reliability of traditional disk drives. There is no downtime, no call for repair or service, and no lost revenue. Due to the outstanding reliability of the ISE technology, Emprise 5000 comes with a five-year hardware warranty.

“Nobody but Xiotech is offering a five-year warranty. That gives me the confidence to put our data on the Emprise 5000 system,” says Acott.

## Ready to Grow

As the Holonyx team developed Linux Test Drive, they saw its potential and knew the ability to expand storage capacity was essential to success. The IT team can deploy multiple Emprise 5000 systems to meet growing needs, or even use Emprise 5000 as the foundation for an Emprise 7000 storage area network (SAN) system, which can grow incrementally to one petabyte.

“The scalability lets me know that when we grow from 5,000 concurrent users to 10,000 or 20,000, we can seamlessly scale up without disruption to the website,” says Kopcho.

*“With Emprise 5000, the impossible became possible.”*

## Game-Changing Relationship

The history of the product’s development also encouraged Holonyx to select the Emprise system. The Advanced Storage Architecture group at Seagate spent more than five years developing the ISE technology. Xiotech acquired this group in 2007, and brought the technology to market in early 2008.

“It was a game-changing move when Xiotech purchased the ISE technology from Seagate,” says Kopcho. “I knew the system was tried and tested years before I selected it.”

## Not One Hiccup

To date, Emprise 5000 has delivered promised performance levels and has been 100 percent reliable. “We haven’t had one hiccup or glitch with the Emprise 5000 system and have been very impressed with its performance,” Kopcho adds. “It has been so successful, in fact, we are now using it as a roadmap for other products we have in development.”

### About Holonyx

Based in Loveland, Colo., Holonyx Technology Corporation focuses on technology and marketing services.

The Ruffdogs technology division of Holonyx specializes in Linux application development and IT infrastructure support and consulting. Ruffdogs also offers a suite of Linux-based applications for IT environments. Holonyx is an industry leader in the development of open-source software applications.

Visit [www.holonyx.com](http://www.holonyx.com) to learn more.



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