



## DRBD® allowed us to build a synchronously replicated storage cluster out of commodity hardware for the price of bare metal

**BACKGROUND** The National Library of Medicine (NLM), on the campus of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, has been a center of information innovation since its founding in 1836. The world's largest biomedical library, NLM maintains and makes available a vast print collection and produces electronic information resources on a wide range of topics that are searched billions of times each year. In addition, the Library coordinates a 6,000-member National Network of Libraries of Medicine that promotes and provides access to health information in communities across the United States.

**BUSINESS CHALLENGE** In 2012, the National Library of Medicine (NLM) faced a number of challenging obstacles while rebuilding their IT infrastructure. Their project had very ambitious goals, providing a biomedical image search engine to the general public with: High Performance clustered storage, fully redundant fault tolerant architecture with no single point of failure, and a means of scaling an effective search engine application. Transitioning to the new system presented additional challenges. As a public resource, up-time was critical. Therefore, the solution needed to provide a near seamless transition. "Downtime will not only be embarrassing but will surely lead to development of a commercially highly-available clone of our service that will lure away our user base, this is where DRBD® really shines. The capability to insert DRBD® into an existing volume or partition: priceless."

**SOLUTION** Ultimately, DRBD® and DRBD® Proxy offered the flexibility, performance, uptime, and reliability the NLM was looking for, all while meeting their budgetary requirements. LINBIT's reputation as a leader in High Availability made it a clear and simple decision on integrating DRBD® into NLM's technology portfolio.



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