Seagate, CERN collaboration on kinetic storage

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Storage vendor Seagate Technology has partnered with the European Organisation for Nuclear Research, CERN openlab, to collaborate on the development of its ''breakthrough'' Kinetic Open Storage platform.

Seagate says the three-year partnership to better manage and store the 100 petabytes of data the Large Hadron Collider has generated to date, as well as the additional 2-3 petabytes of information it produces on a monthly basis in its quest to further "humanity's understanding of the universe".

"CERN creates a truly astonishing amount of data on a daily basis, and finding secure and efficient ways to

store that information is one of the most important challenges we face," said Alberto Di Meglio, Head of CERN openlab.

"We are excited to collaborate with Seagate on understanding how the Kinetic storage architecture could potentially contribute to the CERN infrastructure and aid the very demanding LHC program, by reducing complexity and operational costs in our storage systems."

Scott Horn, vice president of marketing at Seagate, said the Seagate Kinetic Open Storage platform restructures the traditional storage server architectures from the bottom up, connecting object-oriented applications directly to the storage device, and by cutting out the many layers of hardware and software used in traditional stacks, improves performance while significantly cutting costs, by 15-40%.

"This is a thrilling opportunity for Seagate to collaborate with CERN to more efficiently operate one of the most extreme and demanding storage environments in the world," said Horn
"We believe our partnership will not only deliver extensive benefits to CERN's large-scale storage system, but also help us further enhance the Seagate Kinetic Open Storage platform by testing it in an unparalleled data creation environment."

Horn said a second, future research project between Seagate and CERN will look at CERN's EOS storage system to determine whether there are opportunities to enhance and improve the system.

CERN openlab - now entering its fifth three-year phase - is a unique public-private partnership between CERN and leading ICT companies, with a mission to accelerate the development of innovative new solutions to be used by the worldwide LHC community, and to provide companies with a framework to test and validate cutting-edge information technologies and services in partnership with it.

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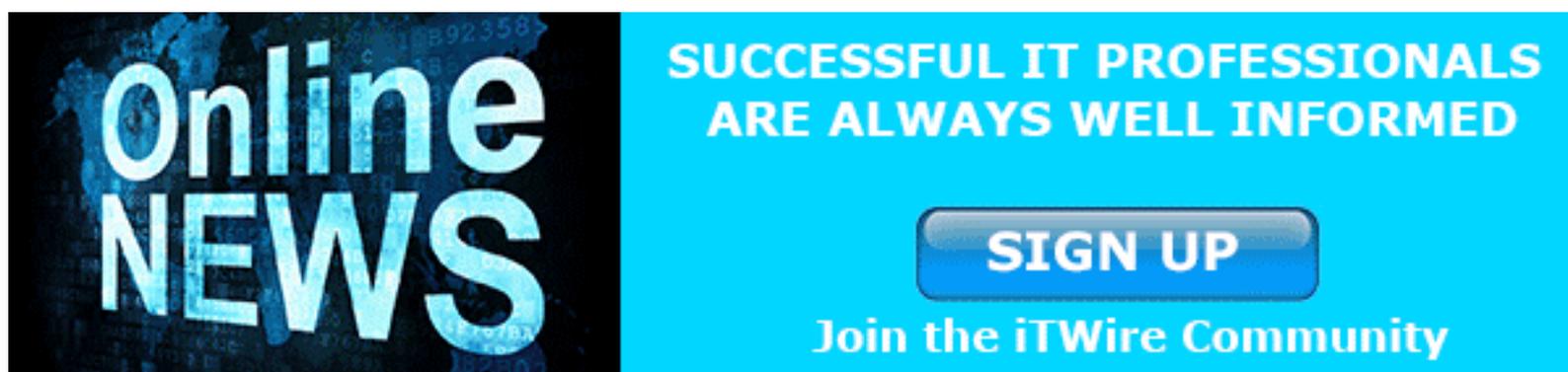
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Peter Dinham is a co-founder of iTWire and a 35-year veteran journalist and corporate communications consultant. He has worked as a journalist in all forms of media – newspapers/magazines, radio, television, press agency and now, online – including with the Canberra Times, The Examiner (Tasmania), the ABC and AAP-Reuters. As a freelance journalist he also had articles published in Australian and overseas magazines. He worked in the corporate communications/public relations sector, in-house with an airline, and as a senior executive in Australia of the world's largest communications consultancy, Burson-Marsteller. He also ran his own communications consultancy and was a co-founder in Australia of the global photographic agency, the Image Bank (now Getty Images).