

# MAKING GOVERNMENT 100% TRANSPARENT

**The People's Majlis engages constituents by streaming meetings live, hosting archive**

Parliament members of the People's Majlis Republic of Maldives wanted to livestream their meetings and make them available online for all constituents. The members need to engage with citizens to obtain their feedback and support of legislation. The government deployed scalable, high-capacity, and cost-effective storage to meet these goals.

## Engaging constituents

The People's Majlis (Parliament of Maldives) is the singular legislative body of the Republic of Maldives, which sits in the Indian Ocean. The Maldives has a population of approximately 543,500 people who reside on nearly 1,200 islands. To inform the media and citizens of legislative activities, Parliament members provide recorded clips of their proceedings. These members typically ask the public for feedback and support on bills and drafted legislation, as well as encourage constituents to participate in events. With bills, documents, and videos related to Parliament activities easily accessible online, citizens can stay abreast and become more engaged.

The 19th Parliament was the first in the Maldives history to livestream parliamentary sessions. To show 100% transparency and help residents understand how the government works on their behalf, Parliament members wanted to make their meetings and committee sessions available online in full, high-definition video. This would allow citizens to view the meetings live or on demand through Parliament's website or social media channels.



**INDUSTRY:** PUBLIC SECTOR

**REGION:** MALDIVES

## VISION

Increase governmental transparency by making parliament meetings and proceedings available for viewing online by media and constituents

## STRATEGY

Upgrade the infrastructure with a scalable, virtualized storage solution, enabling fast retrieval and indefinite archival of files and digital media

## OUTCOMES

- Promotes citizen engagement and 100% government transparency
- Enables faster, frequent outreach to constituents
- Provides almost 100% system uptime

The COVID-19 pandemic hit just as the 2020 Local Council elections were scheduled to be held in the country, forcing the election's postponement. However, Parliament still needed to meet to officially pass the Local Council Elections Special Provision Law, mandating that elections could not be held unless the public health emergency status was lifted. The members began holding virtual meetings so their constituents could witness their progress on proceedings. The 19th Parliament was one of the first in the world to host a virtual plenary session during the pandemic.

Even with the country in lockdown, Parliamentarians still wanted the public's oversight on their activities. This proved difficult with the traditional storage area network (SAN) at capacity and experiencing performance limitations. The SAN could not store the long, high-quality recordings that Parliament needed to create, and the retrieval of large videos was slow. Plus, there was not enough space to store all recordings indefinitely.

## Scaling with needs

The IT department for the People's Majlis invests heavily in solutions to enable Parliament members to do their work. "We have an objectives-based approach to procuring IT solutions," says Ibrahim Yashau, senior information and communications technology (ICT) officer for the Parliament of Maldives. "Our requirements are unique, so we do our own research. We have a lot of cool technology that is not found anywhere else in this country. We wanted something that could scale and grow with our needs."



If Parliament members have new initiatives or projects, we must be ready for them with the right technology."

– IBRAHIM YASHAU, SENIOR ICT OFFICER, PARLIAMENT OF MALDIVES

Yashau and his team needed something that was purpose-built as a file system and easy to use. The solution also needed to perform reliably and accommodate the People's Majlis' projected growth. Yashau continues, "After some online research, we found the HPE Apollo and Qumulo solution." He later downloaded a virtual instance of Qumulo and installed it on his work computer. Within five minutes he had set up a cluster and was serving files from it.

Qumulo's ease of use and HPE partnership, along with the staff's existing familiarity with HPE products, all factored into the decision to choose HPE Apollo 4000 servers and the Qumulo File Data Platform from local HPE partner Focus Computers. The combined solution, featuring 293 TBs of usable capacity, also met the government's budget parameters. The technology had to be cost-effective; the Maldives' tourism and construction industries were hit hard during the height of the pandemic, spurring notable economic uncertainty for the country. "It's everyone's duty to save money, especially during this time," Yashau acknowledges.

## Electing trusted partners

The IT staff chose a solution that could be supported locally. "We are in the middle of nowhere, and we don't have a strong supply chain or HPE warehouses nearby. Focus Computers has always provided us with alternative ways to work out these problems," Yashau explains.

With the pandemic, the Qumulo team showed Yashau and his colleagues how to install the solution via a Zoom conference call. "It was painless. We were finished within two hours," Yashau says.





Later, Qumulo engineers applied a patch to integrate the Qumulo File Data Platform with HPE Apollo servers. The team currently provides remote support for the software; although, the IT staff has not required much.

“We were impressed by the Qumulo team,” Yashau states. “We were up and running a few days after they applied the patch. They know their stuff. I trust them with my storage. The solution—from the start until now—is a big success.” In the future, the staff will also leverage the 24x7 support services of HPE Pointnext Complete Care when needed.

### **Making 122 years of data accessible in seconds**

Apart from the usual office files, the platform hosts a number of applications for recording video and audio in various formats, including vMix live video production software, Open Broadcaster Software, and many line recorders.

“Every single thing we do: videos, audio files, documents, every single email we get, every letter or request, and even an archive dating back to the early 1900s—every single thing is on HPE Apollo and Qumulo,” Yashau notes.

That currently amounts to nearly 120 TBs (and growing) of data and

digital files that will remain as active storage indefinitely. Parliament’s data requirements have grown much faster than anticipated over the past year, and yet, Yashau is confident the infrastructure is easily expandable.

“I don’t need to devote much time to planning downtime or migration. It’s all automatic. It’s exactly what we wanted,” he says.

Whether the public relations department or Parliamentarians need to create a video to share on their TikTok, Clubhouse, or Twitter feeds to engage their constituencies, they have fast storage available to them and can access it all in real-time. “Our end users do not have to waste time trying to access the large digital files they need to do their work. That means they can reach out to the people faster and more often,” Yashau says.

### **Ensuring a firm IT foundation**

Yashau also points to several time-saving features with the Qumulo File Data Platform that he appreciates, such as the ease of employing user roles, out-of-the-box installation, default networking options, and remote support options. These enhancements make storage administration easy, allowing him to focus on other strategic goals for the technology center he oversees.

He expects that his team will use the analytical capabilities of Qumulo’s solution more in the months ahead. For now, the capacity trends graph offers visibility into storage usage patterns. “In the future, if we have a performance problem, we’ll use Qumulo’s analytics to help us,” he affirms.

Overall, the technology meets Yashau’s three top criteria: simplicity, performance, and scalability. “HPE Apollo is a great platform with great performance. HPE InfoSight is well-rounded too,” Yashau says.

HPE InfoSight saves time and eliminates the need for someone to look constantly at error logs. When a couple of batteries dropped voltage on the storage controllers recently, the software sent alerts to the IT staff, who replaced the faulty components without any impact to IT services. That’s important, according to Yashau, because the platform can’t afford a second of downtime. People’s Majlis employees and even Parliamentarians work on tight deadlines and sometimes around the clock on bills. The media and communications department edits videos for sharing with constituents, and other departments need continuous access to their office files and documents to serve taxpayers.



HPE Apollo and Qumulo File Data Platform are rock-solid. We have nearly 100% uptime on our systems, and scalability is beyond any requirement we would ever need.”

– IBRAHIM YASHAU, SENIOR ICT OFFICER, PARLIAMENT OF MALDIVES





Notably, help desk calls about file services have been reduced by almost 100% since the implementation of the HPE Apollo and Qumulo solution. Users notice the improved uptime, responsiveness, and the general stability of the services. “We have nearly 100% uptime on our systems,” Yashau says.

All of the enhancements allow the IT staff to concentrate on new initiatives and projects that may be needed as the pandemic subsides and the country normalizes.

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[hpe.com/us/en/storage/file-object.html](https://hpe.com/us/en/storage/file-object.html)

## SOLUTION

### HARDWARE

- HPE Apollo 4000 Systems

### SOFTWARE

- HPE InfoSight
- HPE Solutions for Qumulo File Data Platform

### HPE POINTNEXT SERVICES

- HPE Pointnext Complete Care

### KEY PARTNERS

- Qumulo
- Focus Computers



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UPDATES