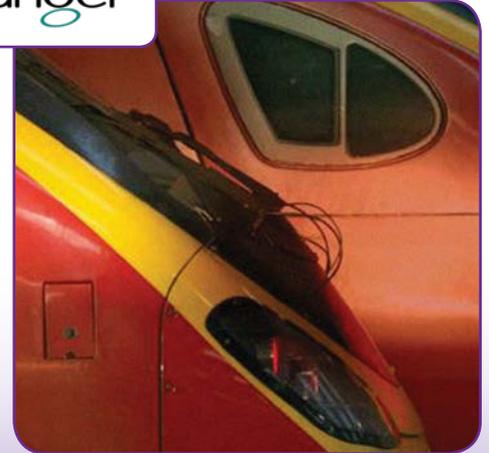


SNS Enables Server Consolidation, Automated Disaster Recovery and Data Protection for Angel Trains

Angel Trains is one of the UK's leading train leasing companies. It has been an owner and lessor of rolling stock for more than sixteen years, during which time it has earned an enviable record as a consistent, professional, innovative and large scale investor in trains.

Angel Trains is enthusiastic about financing and delivering high quality, modern assets to its customers. They have invested £3.2 billion in new rolling stock and refurbishments.



CHALLENGES

- Aging physical server estate
- Multiple complex data replication technologies in use
- Difficulties in testing and executing disaster recovery plans
- Performance and capacity limits reached with existing storage solution
- Complex application and file storage provisioning
- Unacceptable backup failure rate caused by jobs over running

SOLUTION

EMC VNX5300 Fibre Channel block and NAS storage
A VNX5300 was deployed at the production site in Victoria and the recovery site at Waterloo. FAST Cache acceleration was used to provide high performance storage for the VMware hosts. Windows shares run directly from the VNX and existing files were migrated along with their security permissions.

EMC RecoverPoint Continuous Remote Replication
Using the VNX's integrated write-splitter, RecoverPoint clusters replicate all writes to the recovery site without impacting performance of the SAN or overloading the WAN link. The remote RecoverPoint cluster provides both point-in-time restores and failover options.

VMware vSphere and vCenter Site Recovery Manager
vSphere at each site now runs nearly all of the server infrastructure including many recently migrated physical servers. With full RecoverPoint integration, Site Recovery Manager provides push-button fail-over and fail-back, and non-disruptive testing.

EMC Data Domain
DD620 appliances at both sites are configured as targets for a single Backup Exec 2012 server. DD Boost works with the Backup Exec De-duplication engine to offload much of the de-duplication process to the media server which increases throughput. The engine also manages replication of the off-site copy allowing Backup Exec to seamlessly restore from either the local or remote copy.

BENEFITS

- Significant reduction in physical servers and increase in storage performance
- Local site high availability and downtime avoidance
- Data recovery to any point in time to get applications back online faster
- Increased confidence in the business continuity plan as DR tests can be regularly performed non-disruptively
- Better application performance as hot data is automatically accelerated to Flash speeds
- Minimal network bandwidth required for replication
- Simple provisioning of block and file storage
- Increased on-site backup job retention and faster completion times
- Automated replication of backup jobs with full catalog awareness
- Different retention policies for backup jobs at local and recovery sites

"There were just too many physical servers so we needed to virtualise as much as we could and make the process as painless as possible.

In addition the business could no longer be confident that in the event of a disaster it could reliably recover, we needed the process to be streamlined so we can easily test our business continuity plan on a regular basis."

Russell Apted, IT Manager, Angel Trains

“The solutions were easy to deploy and Data Domain was integrated and up and running with Backup Exec within 2 or 3 days. A second Data Domain box was installed at our recovery facility which has enabled off-site copies of backup jobs to be automatically created. This has given us peace of mind in respect of recovering backup data in the event of a disaster.”

Russell Apted, IT Manager, Angel Trains

AT A GLANCE

COMPANY SIZE	51-200 employees
INDUSTRY	Transportation Leasing
APPLICATIONS	Microsoft Exchange, SQL and SharePoint Oracle
PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENT	EMC CLARiiON CX3-40 with Fibre Channel connected physical servers Double-Take host based continuous replication for disaster recovery
SOLUTION	Virtualisation Storage Continuous Data Protection Disaster Recovery Data Protection
TECHNOLOGY HIGHLIGHTS	EMC VNX5300 (Fibre Channel block and NAS storage) EMC RecoverPoint Continuous Remote Replication (CRR) EMC Data Domain DD620 with DD Boost for Backup Exec VMware vSphere VMware vCenter Site Recovery Manager Symantec Backup Exec 2012

“SNS’s knowledge of VMware and EMC technologies has been excellent, but it has been the way that they have taken ownership of delivering the project, from initial design through to deployment, that has most impressed.

SNS’s approach of educating customers through seminars is hugely beneficial and I would highly recommend anyone who is looking to work with them to attend one as it will give them complete confidence that SNS are a first-class partner to work with.”

Russell Apted, IT Manager, Angel Trains

ABOUT US

SNS delivers infrastructure solutions to match your needs and budget

We are not just a technology reseller, we are specialists that deliver high quality, well planned IT solutions to maximise your return on investment. Our role is to listen, understand and help you with an on-going strategy that will address the key IT challenges of your organisation.

We have a proven track record of delivering IT solutions across the UK to small, medium and enterprise organisations. Our customer references clearly demonstrate how we have helped many organisations to reduce cost and boost productivity with high quality IT solutions and support.

