



SNS Enables VMware Data Protection for Jephson Housing Association Group

Jephson manage over 16,000 homes throughout the country and work in partnership with local authorities and residents to create safe, sustainable communities including:

- General family housing
- Low-cost home ownership
- Housing for older people
- Housing for tenants with support needs

The organisation has over 30 years experience in the housing sector and strives to put its customers first and deliver services to meet their needs.



CHALLENGES

- Administrative overhead due to managing multiple backup solutions each with their own hardware
- Frequent failures with VMware image backups and tape reliability issues
- Time consuming process restoring backup data from tape
- Limited resources to manage tapes off-site and handle complexity of restores if tapes are not immediately available
- Backup jobs failing to complete within an acceptable time due to data growth

SOLUTION

VMware backup

A SAN attached physical VADP proxy server was deployed at each site and vCenter discovery policies created to automatically backup virtual machines. Incremental backups were configured to use Change Block Tracking to maximise throughput.

De-duplication

Block level de-duplication was configured on the disk libraries to maximise on-disk retention and source-based de-duplication was used to minimise network traffic and maximise throughput. The de-duplication database was placed on ultra high-speed Flash drives to further accelerate throughput.

Replicated Disk Libraries

Once the primary backup job has completed a secondary copy job automatically runs to create an off-site backup - only new unique data is sent to minimise network traffic and copy time. Once a month key data is streamed to tape for long term retention.

Application and physical server backup

File system and application agents were deployed on physical servers and on a small number of virtual machines where granular recovery was required.

BENEFITS

- Robust agent-less backups of virtual machines with granular restores and automatic backups using VMware vCenter discovery policies
- Significant increase in backup performance - daily incrementals complete in under 3 hours and weekly fulls in under 8 hours
- Increased reliability of backups and reduction in media costs as tape is now only used for long term retention (30 days plus)
- Rapid restores as most do not need to come from tape as 30 days of backups are retained on disk
- Automatic off-site replication of backups utilising minimal network bandwidth
- Seamless integration of tape and disk - files can be restored in seconds from the primary or secondary disk copy, or tape
- Single point of management for backup and restore, with the ability to easily add Storage Resource Management, and file system and Exchange Archiving

"We have a diverse infrastructure and therefore have deployed a wide range of backup products, we also tried a number of free or low-cost agent-less VMware solutions, but these proved to be unreliable. Backup had become a significant drain on the department's resources and it had become clear that we needed to consolidate onto a single reliable solution."

Ian Neal, IT Manager, Jephson Housing Association Group

“As 90% of our estate is virtualised we need to be able to reliably backup the VMs within the available time - this was easily achieved providing considerable headroom for growth. Most significantly, administration has been reduced as we no longer need to install agents or configure backup polices as new VMs are created.

Our new backup platform meets our needs today and we can easily build on it moving forward - we will be looking to add Archiving and Storage Resource Management in the future.”

Ian Neal, IT Manager, Jephson Housing Association Group

AT A GLANCE

COMPANY SIZE	201-500 employees
INDUSTRY	Housing Association
APPLICATIONS	Microsoft SQL Oracle RDBMS
PREVIOUS DATA PROTECTION SOLUTION	Symantec Backup Exec Quest vRanger VMware Data Recovery Local SUN backup solution Backup directly to tape
SOLUTION	Data Protection
TECHNOLOGY HIGHLIGHTS	CommVault Simpana Data Protection Agents for VMware vSphere, Microsoft SQL, Oracle and SUN Solaris EMC VNX5100 Fibre Channel storage Overland NEO LTO-5 tape library

“We have been working with SNS for the best part of the last decade, across a wide range of IT technologies and it has been an incredibly successful partnership.

We need a partner who always delivers on what they promise and are prepared to go the extra mile. I would highly recommend any organisation big or small to engage with SNS.”

Ian Neal, IT Manager, Jephson Housing Association Group

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.

