

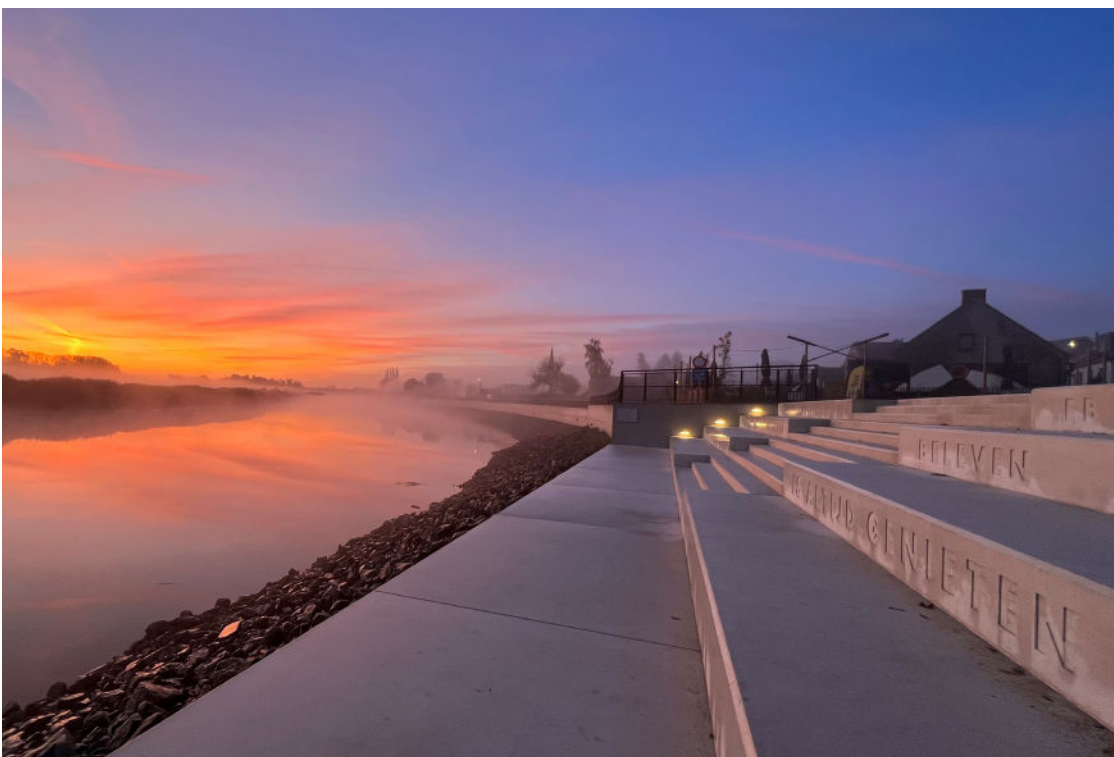
Succes Story | Local Government | Silent Bricks

Municipality Wichelen

In picturesque Wichelen, located in East Flanders, the municipality has been committed for years to sustainable development and reliable public services. To continue guaranteeing this in an increasingly digital world, the municipality had to manage its growing amount of digital data securely and efficiently.

With the threat of cyberattacks, it became crucial to create a hacker-proof backup environment, with offline backup and fast recovery at its core. The solution also had to be user-friendly, so that administrative employees could manage it as well.

Together with IT1 and Comex, the Municipality of Wichelen chose Silent Bricks. This German technology offers not only the required security through its physical air gap, but also scalability and flexibility. This has enabled the municipality to lay a solid foundation for securely managing its digital data and continuing to deliver its services at a high level.



All photo's:
Municipality Wichelen
September 2024

The search for a hacker-proof backup environment

The challenge

At a time when cyber threats are becoming increasingly advanced, the Municipality of Wichelen faced the challenge of optimally protecting its digital data. The municipality urgently needed a solution that was hacker-proof and could guarantee the integrity of its backups. The preference was for an offline backup, fully closed off from external access, and a system that would enable fast recovery in the event of a disaster. In addition, this system had to be dummy-proof. With these requirements, the Municipality of Wichelen searched for a reliable and future-proof solution that could guarantee the continuity of its services, even in a challenging digital environment.

“The installation, including the explanation of the Silent Bricks, took barely two hours. We had to adjust our backup configuration after two months, but since then I haven’t had to worry about it. After my long leave, the administration indicated that they had been able to swap the Bricks without any problems, which shows that the system really is dummy-proof, a major plus for us.,”

Benjamin de Vriendt (IT responsible municipality Wichelen)

An important consideration

When choosing between tape and Silent Bricks, the Municipality of Wichelen faced an important decision that would directly affect the security and efficiency of its backup environment.

As a traditional storage medium, tape offers the advantages of being inaccessible to hackers and having low costs, but the disadvantage is that the recovery process is slow and the data guarantee is not always optimal. The municipality, however, was looking for a solution that was not only hacker-proof, but also offered fast recovery capabilities.

The Silent Bricks from FAST LTA offered an attractive alternative here. This system combines the advantages of a physical air gap, making backups inaccessible to hackers, with a significantly faster recovery capacity than tape. In addition, the system offers a high level of data guarantee, which was essential for the municipality.

Ultimately, the decision was made to invest in Silent Bricks, since this solution would significantly improve both the security and the operational continuity of the municipal IT infrastructure.

Proof of Concept

To make the right choice for its new backup environment, the Municipality of Wichelen decided to carry out a Proof of Concept, PoC. This process was crucial to test whether the Silent Bricks could actually meet the municipality's high requirements.

During the PoC, the Silent Bricks were subjected to a series of tests focused on the municipality's core needs: hacker-proof storage, fast recovery capabilities and ease of use.

The tests confirmed that the Silent Bricks could not only guarantee the expected security and integrity of the data, but also offered a significantly faster recovery capacity than traditional tapes. The PoC showed that the system could be easily integrated into the existing infrastructure, without having to make concessions to operational continuity.

This successful PoC gave the Municipality of Wichelen the confidence to definitively choose Silent Bricks, with the certainty that this solution would enable the municipality to optimally protect its digital data and recover quickly in the event of possible disasters.



The installation:

- 1 Silent Brick Drive
- 3 Silent Brick AIR 16/24TB

The role of IT1

The Municipality of Wichelen has relied on IT1's expertise for its ICT infrastructure for more than ten years. Thanks to this close collaboration, IT1 knows the municipality's needs inside and out. When Wichelen was looking for a new, secure backup solution, ICT Manager Benjamin de Vriendt directly involved Tony Vercauteren, the primary IT1 engineer, to evaluate Comex's Silent Bricks solution.

Tony Vercauteren was closely involved in the Proof of Concept and became convinced of the benefits of Silent Bricks. This successful PoC led to a partnership between IT1 and Comex, in which the Silent Bricks solution is now proactively offered through, among others, V-ICT-OR's Buy IT Public platform.

Solution

- 1x SB Drive
- 3x SB Air 16/24 TB

Benefits

- Hacker-proof backup
- Fast recovery possible
- Dummyproof
- Minimum lifespan of 10 years

Sector

Municipalities / local governments

Applications

Veeam backup

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