

Success Story | Archive | Silent Bricks

Noord-Hollands Archief

The Noord-Hollands Archief is the regional historical centre of the province. As a Joint Arrangement, it manages both national archives and municipal archives from the region. In doing so, the archive is responsible for a unique and growing volume of digital heritage.

The physical and digital archives form society's collective memory. Storage, management and access to this information are central to daily operations. But how do you ensure that this data remains scalable, reliable and manageable in the long te

The Challenge | Exponential Growth Without Control

The digitisation of archives is causing constant and accelerating data growth. For the Noord-Hollands Archief, this created a number of concrete challenges.

The existing infrastructure did not offer sufficient scalability to accommodate this growth. At the same time, there was a lack of insight and monitoring of performance, making it difficult to maintain control over the environment.

In addition, the existing storage architecture no longer matched the need for flexibility and modularity. A broader strategic question also played a role: how do you retain control over your own data without becoming dependent on cloud solutions?

For an organisation where data is at the core, it was clear that a future-proof foundation was needed.

Photo:

Noord-Hollands Archief

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The Requirements | Control, Flexibility and Future-Readiness

The new solution had to restore that control, without compromising performance or scalability. Clear requirements were therefore set. The storage had to be modularly expandable, so that growth would no longer pose a risk but become a manageable process.

In addition, the environment had to be flexible enough to support both WORM and non-WORM configurations, matching the archive's different retention periods and types of data.

Integration was also essential. A stable and well-functioning S3 connection had to ensure that the solution aligned with existing and future applications.

But above all, one principle was central: full control over data, within the organisation's own infrastructure.

The choice for FAST LTA

Based on these requirements, the Noord-Hollands Archief chose the Silent Brick solution from FAST LTA.

The deciding factor was the combination of price and performance. The solution offered the desired flexibility and scalability, without compromising reliability or manageability.



The Solution | From Dependency to Control

With the implementation of Silent Bricks, the Noord-Hollands Archief now has a solid and future-proof storage environment.

The modular design makes it easy to expand as data grows. At the same time, the on-premise setup ensures full control over storage and management.

Performance has improved noticeably. Read and write speeds are at the level required for daily operations, while the S3 connection functions stably and reliably within the existing architecture.

What was previously a limiting factor has now become a stable foundation for further growth.

“The purchase and expansion of the Silent Bricks is a crucial building block of our data foundation. Comex provided the right expertise and partner service, fully relieving us of the burden in a complex challenge.” - Jurgen Moers, Head of IT & Innovation

Solution

2 Silent Brick G controllers at geographically separated locations, configured for redundancy.

The configuration consists of a scalable WORM archive of 128 TB at one location, including a 2 TB caching module for fast access to data in the active phase before archiving.

In addition, each location has 128 TB Silent Brick Max as NAS, used for securing end-of-life NAS and as a semi-archive.

This allows the Noord-Hollands Archief to combine long-term, immutable archiving with flexible storage for data that must remain securely available.

Industry

Archive / Government

Applications

Digital archiving

S3-integrations

Advantages

- Full control over on-premise data
- Modularly scalable
- Support for WORM and non-WORM
- Stable and fast performance
- Reliable S3 connection

Reseller / IT-partner

Axians Groningen

The logo for Axians, featuring the word "axians" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. The "a" and "i" are blue, while the "x" is a darker blue/purple color.

Hello.

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