

Success Story | Municipality | Silent Bricks

Municipality of Noordoostpolder

Bordering the IJsselmeer and shaped from land that was once sea, the Municipality of Noordoostpolder is an area with a clear vision for quality of life, development and community involvement. The municipality comprises eleven towns and villages, including Emmeloord, Marknesse and Luttelgeest, and works every day to strengthen its local communities and neighbourhoods. It does so by investing in housing, public facilities and equal opportunities for its residents.

The municipality also takes a leading role in agriculture and spatial quality. Noordoostpolder promotes sustainable agriculture, provides space for sports, recreation and culture, and aims to create a future-proof region where residents can actively contribute to discussions and decisions.

But how do you safeguard digital security, data integrity and regulatory compliance in a municipality that is constantly evolving?



Photo:
Municipality
Noordoostpolder
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OUTDATED NAS AND STRICTER LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The Challenge

The Municipality of Noordoostpolder had a backup environment that no longer met modern requirements. Its existing NAS storage was outdated and provided insufficient protection against data loss. The backup structure also consisted of only a single copy within the operational environment. In the event of a major technical failure or disaster, only the active production systems would remain available. Historical data and backup files would be lost.

Legal and regulatory requirements are also becoming stricter. The municipality is required to retain certain personal data securely for extended periods. The 3-2-1-1-0 rule is an important principle for meeting these requirements. It involves maintaining at least three copies of the data, stored on two different types of media, with one copy stored offsite and one copy kept completely offline through an air gap.

A backup must also be free of errors when it is needed. The zero in the rule represents zero errors during recovery. This best practice is not a strict legal requirement, but it is widely recommended in guidelines such as the BIO and NIS2.

For Noordoostpolder, one thing was clear. The municipality needed a new foundation for protecting its digital data.

“The Municipality of Noordoostpolder knew exactly what it needed: a robust, simple and cost-efficient backup solution that could grow effortlessly over time. Thanks to the clear collaboration, the implementation went smoothly. This is a municipality that thinks ahead and takes action.”

Harry Beekman (Manager Projects & Consultancy, Nexxt)

The Search for a Future-Proof Solution

With a clear understanding of the technical and legal requirements, the Municipality of Noordoostpolder began searching for a new storage solution. This search was driven by several specific requirements.

Redundancy and reliability were at the top of the list. It was essential to create a backup environment that not only protected the active systems but also safeguarded historical data against loss, even if a backup failed.

Protection against ransomware was another essential requirement. The municipality needed to be able to rely on an offline backup that was physically disconnected from the network. This measure is crucial for protecting against modern threats.

Costs and efficiency also played an important role. The complete solution had to fit within the available budget while remaining efficient in terms of storage capacity and day-to-day management. Particular attention was paid to the balance between investment costs, administrative workload and scalability.

The solution also needed to remain accessible and manageable without depending on the cloud. After all, data must remain available, even during prolonged connectivity issues or outages affecting external services.

There were also clear compliance and regulatory requirements. The solution had to meet applicable standards and guidelines, including the BIO, NIS2 and GDPR. A clear exit strategy was required for both the backup software and any integrations with cloud services. Only then could the municipality retain full control over its data.

Based on all these requirements and conditions, the parties worked towards a concrete design that was both technically and legally robust. This provided the foundation for translating the design into a suitable, future-proof solution.

The Perfect Match

To implement the selected design, the Municipality of Noordoostpolder engaged its long-standing IT partner, Nexxt.

Working closely with Nexxt and distributor Comex, the supplier of FAST LTA systems in the Benelux, several technical sessions were organised. During these sessions, different scenarios were developed and aligned with the municipality's requirements. This resulted in a solution that seamlessly met both the functional and legal requirements.

The municipality selected a storage solution that stands out in terms of scalability, reliability and cost efficiency. The Silent Brick systems can be expanded easily as requirements grow.

The warranty conditions are comprehensive. When service contracts are renewed, the rates remain unchanged throughout the contract period, regardless of previous expansions. The competitive pricing also played an important role in the decision-making process.

For applications with stricter archiving requirements, FAST LTA also offers systems with hardware-based WORM functionality, such as the Silent Cubes. This was also of interest to the municipality. The municipality experienced the collaboration with both Nexxt and Comex as very positive. Nexxt contributed in-depth knowledge of the IT infrastructure and translated the municipality's requirements into a concrete technical configuration.

Comex provided specialist support and expertise during the design and quotation process. Together, they ensured a streamlined and carefully executed implementation.



A NEW APPROACH

Smart Storage, Propely Organised

The new backup environment based on Silent Brick systems has directly addressed the Municipality of Noordoostpolder's main challenges.

The backup environment is now redundant, with storage distributed across geographically separate locations. This enables the municipality to meet the requirements of the NIS2 Directive and the 3-2-1-1-0 backup strategy.

By using removable Bricks, the municipality also has a physical offline copy of its backup data. This air-gapped component is essential for meeting legal obligations relating to long-term data retention and protection against ransomware.

Because this backup is disconnected from the network, it is immune to attacks targeting the active IT environment.

Another important benefit is scalability. The municipality is currently carrying out a large-scale data migration from on-premises environments, making it difficult to predict the exact storage capacity required.

The modular design of the Silent Bricks allows the municipality to start small and scale flexibly as its requirements grow, without adding complexity or increasing the administrative workload.

The implementation process itself also went very smoothly. Installation was quick and simple, and the solution has operated without issues ever since.

With this new configuration, the Municipality of Noordoostpolder not only meets its legal obligations but also has a robust, manageable and future-proof backup environment.



The Role of NEXXT

As the long-standing IT partner of the Municipality of Noordoostpolder, Nexxt played a central role in selecting and implementing the new backup environment.

Thanks to its knowledge of the existing infrastructure, Nexxt was able to translate the municipality's requirements into a concrete design quickly.

Together with Comex, Nexxt developed a solution that meets the municipality's technical and legal requirements. Nexxt's guidance ensured that the process ran smoothly and that the Silent Brick solution could be deployed efficiently.

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Solution

- 2x SB Controller G5200
- 2x SB Max 32/48 TB
- 2x SB Max 64/96 TB
- 4x SB Air 16/24 TB for airgap

Configuration

- **Short-term retention:** SB Max 32/48 TB, replicated to the second location and equipped with an air gap.
- **Long-term retention:** SB Max 64/96 TB, replicated to the second location.

Advantages

- Redundant backups stored at geographically separate locations.
- Offline air-gapped backup that meets the 3-2-1-1-0 rule.
- Flexible scalability.
- Simple implementation and management.

Sector

Municipalities / Local Authorities

Application

Commvault backup

Hello.

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