FAST LTA

Customer Case Study | Silent Bricks | Offline Backups and WORM Archive

How Cölner Hofbräu integrated its new DMS with offline backups and WORM archiving

The transition to EASY DMS required Cölner Hofbräu to introduce a new archive for invoices, personnel records and other documents. At the same time, the brewery modernised its backup environment. Two Silent Brick systems combine storage for Veeam with WORM modules and removable media that can also be stored offline.

A new DMS required a different archive

In addition to the brewery, Cölner Hofbräu P. Josef Früh KG also operates hospitality establishments and a hotel. Invoicing, administration and other processes generate new data every day across its two locations. When the organisation decided to consolidate these documents in EASY DMS, the underlying archiving system also had to change. Documents subject to retention requirements had previously been stored on WORM tape. According to the IT team, the existing setup offered insufficient capacity for the planned growth.

The primary storage already had regular backups. For the new setup, IT Manager Julian Kamp and Thomas Coßmann, responsible for system administration, sought secondary storage that was compatible with Veeam, supported long-term archiving and was easy to manage. They also wanted to use backups and archives at different locations and keep a copy physically disconnected from the network. Requirements for the protection of personal data also influenced the decision.

The experience?

“Thanks to the portability of the Bricks, we can use backups and archives at different locations and also store them offline.”

Thomas Coßmann, Head of System Administration at Cölner Hofbräu



Photos: Saarländischer Rundfunk, 2018

COMEX

Two systems for backup and archiving

Together with its long-standing IT partner GID GmbH, Cölner Hofbräu compared WORM tape and software-based alternatives, among other options. The team selected the Silent Brick System from FAST LTA. Two systems were installed, each equipped with a controller, a Flash module, a regular Silent Brick and a WORM module. The removable Bricks enable offline storage and use at different locations. The modular design allows the team to add capacity later.

The transition took place in December 2018, and installation was completed shortly before Christmas. According to the IT team, the promised features then worked as planned. Older backups were still stored on tape at the time and were gradually replaced by the new storage. This allowed the transition to take place in stages.

A simpler foundation for future growth

For Cölner Hofbräu, the two changes came together. The DMS gained an archive with WORM storage for finalised documents, while Veeam could write its backup data to expandable secondary storage. The team could transport media or store them offline without relying on the old tape-based workflow for new data.

Kamp and Coßmann described the system as easy to operate and were satisfied with the implementation carried out with GID and FAST LTA. The operational setup gave the brewery a way to modernise backup and archiving step by step while older tape data was still being transferred.