FAST LTA

Customer Case Study | Silent Bricks | Air-Gapped Veeam Backup

How the Municipality of Gennep physically disconnects Veeam backups using removable Bricks

Gennep was already using Veeam to create backups at its primary site, at a disaster recovery site and for a replication system. Nevertheless, the municipality wanted a copy that could not be accessed over the network. With five removable Silent Bricks, the IT team added a physical air gap to its existing routine.

An addtional recovery point outside the network

Following a cyberattack on another Dutch municipality, Gennep reassessed its own data protection. A hacker can sometimes still gain access, even when extensive preventive measures are in place. Technical Information Advisor Roel Janssen and System Administrator Gerrie Gossens therefore wanted a backup copy that would be physically disconnected from the active IT environment once stored away.

The municipality already had a Veeam process in place: a backup at the primary site in the evening, followed by a copy to the disaster recovery site and then a job feeding a replication system. The new offline copy had to be added to this existing workflow. Tape was considered, but according to the team, it proved too labour-intensive and too slow.

The experience?

“It’s great that the system is so scalable. If you have more data, you simply add another Silent Brick.”

Roel Janssen, Technical Information Advisor at the Municipality of Gennep



Photos: Municipality Gennep, February 2022

COMEX

A rotation the team can manage

Long-standing IT partner Avensus evaluated various options together with Gennep and tested how Silent Bricks could be integrated with Veeam with as few manual steps as possible. The selected solution consists of a Silent Brick Drive G2000 pro and five Bricks, each with 24 TB gross capacity and 16 TB effective capacity in the described configuration. According to the IT team, a single Brick could hold Gennep's entire environment.

The IT staff rotate the Bricks approximately every two days and create the additional backup after a few steps in Veeam. The five modules rotate across the working days. A removed module provides a physically separated copy. If more capacity or longer retention is required, the municipality can add another Brick.

A clear physical action provides greater control

For Janssen, the air gap was tangible: the team can see when the copy has been removed from the system. He reported that, after a few adjustments, the setup was running to the team's satisfaction. In the event of a disaster, he expects to be able to restore the systems with little additional equipment.

The Municipality of Gennep thus gained an additional recovery option alongside its existing backups and replica. The advantage lies in the combination of a fixed rotation routine, physical separation and the flexibility to extend retention in the future.