FAST LTA

Customer Case Study | Silent Bricks | Medical Backup and Archiving

How Kempten-Oberallgäu modernised its backup and patient archive in less than two months

The hospital group needed to centrally archive its patient data for AGFA HYDMedia. The old tape library offered insufficient speed and capacity. With two Silent Brick systems, the IT team gained rewritable storage for Veeam and WORM storage for electronic patient records. The environment went into production in January 2019.

Patient data was growing faster than tape could keep up

The Kempten-Oberallgäu hospital group operates four hospital locations. In 2019, it managed approximately 200 TB of data, with an estimated 1 TB being added every month. Hospital information systems, medical imaging and other healthcare applications used this storage. The secondary storage environment relied primarily on a library containing forty LTO6 tapes. Until then, scanned patient records had been archived immutably at an external location.

The introduction of AGFA HYDMedia and the consolidation of ORBIS data created the need for a central patient archive. At the same time, the team wanted to replace tape-based backups with Veeam. Time was limited: HYDMedia was already scheduled for implementation, while the new storage had to accommodate both backups and archive data.

The experience?

“With the consolidation of the ORBIS databases, we faced the challenge of making the existing archiving systems centrally available in the shortest possible time.”

Joachim Schmitt, Head of ICT at the Kempten-Oberallgäu Hospital Group



Photos: Hospital Group Kempten-Oberallgäu gGmbH, June 2019

COMEX

WORM and rewritable storage side by side

AGFA introduced the hospital group to FAST LTA as a provider of backup and archiving solutions. Following an evaluation, the IT team selected Silent Bricks, partly because of the combination of WORM modules for finalised patient records and rewritable modules for Veeam. Two Silent Brick systems were installed, each equipped with a controller, expansion shelf, Flash module, regular Bricks and WORM Bricks. Capacity could be expanded modularly at a later stage.

The requirements were defined in December 2018. Delivery and installation followed that same month, and the system went into production in January 2019. Administrator training was completed in February. FAST LTA worked with the IT team on the implementation and, according to Head of ICT Joachim Schmitt, adjusted the original order when Silent Bricks proved to be a better fit than the initially selected Silent Cubes.

A functioning archive within a tight schedule

The hospital group was able to archive electronic patient records from HYDMedia onto WORM Bricks. Veeam wrote backups to the new secondary storage. The IT team found managing these backups easier than with the previous tape drives. This supported the introduction of the new content management system without postponing the archiving requirements.

An expansion to accommodate other medical data was planned for 2019. The new environment provided room for this, while centralised backup and archiving were already in production.