FAST LTA

Customer Case Study | Silent Bricks | Flexible NAS Storage and Immutable Archiving

# How the Noord-Hollands Archief stores growing digital heritage locally and immutably

**The increasing volume of digital archive material required a storage environment that could grow while remaining within the organisation's own infrastructure. The Noord-Hollands Archief selected Silent Bricks for immutable archiving and flexible NAS storage, distributed across two locations and connected via S3.**

## Growth required more than capacity

The Noord-Hollands Archief manages national and municipal archives from the region. The volume of digital heritage is growing through digitisation and new digital submissions. The existing storage infrastructure could not adequately accommodate this growth. The team also had insufficient insight into the performance of the environment and sought a more flexible architecture.

Not every file in an archive has the same requirements. Finalised files need protection against modification, while other material must remain editable or available as a semi-archive. The new environment therefore had to combine WORM and non-WORM storage. A stable S3 connection was needed for integration with applications. The archive wanted to retain control over storage and management within its own infrastructure.

## The experience?

**"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, taking the entire burden off our shoulders in addressing a complex challenge."**

Jurgen Moers, Head of IT & Innovation
at the Noord-Hollands Archief




Photos: Noord-Hollands Archief, March 2026

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## Two locations and two storage roles

Based on these requirements, the Noord-Hollands Archief selected Silent Brick from FAST LTA. According to the original case study, the price-performance ratio was the deciding factor. The configuration uses two G-controllers at geographically separated locations. One location houses a 128 TB WORM archive, with a 2 TB caching module for fast access during the active phase before archiving.

Each location also has 128 TB of Silent Brick Max as NAS storage. This storage is used to secure a NAS approaching the end of its lifecycle and for a semi-archive. This means that data requiring immutable storage and data that must remain flexibly accessible do not have to be forced into the same storage format. Axians Groningen was involved as a reseller and IT partner.

## A foundation for daily operations and growth

The modular setup allows capacity to be expanded without having to redesign the storage architecture. According to the archive, read and write speeds after implementation meet the requirements of daily operations, and the S3 connection functions reliably. The on-premises setup gives the archive the desired direct control over its data.

For the Noord-Hollands Archief, this resolves a specific challenge: finalised heritage material can be stored immutably, while other files remain accessible and storage capacity can be expanded. Comex provided expertise and support during the selection and implementation process.