FAST LTA

Customer Case Study | Silent Bricks | Virtual Tape Library

How Scheugenpflug made backups four times faster and freed up 11 TB of primary storage

At the growing machine manufacturer, tape-based backups were taking increasingly longer, and storage media were found to be defective. Scheugenpflug replaced the tapes with a Silent Brick Library for Veeam and used other Bricks as NAS storage. After a few months, backups were four times faster and 11 TB of primary storage capacity had been freed up.

Tape could not keep up with growth

Scheugenpflug develops dispensing, bonding and encapsulation technology for the automotive and electronics industries, among others. As the company grew, so did its data volume. In 2017, IT Manager Markus Schmid had to protect approximately 20 TB of data. He expected this to exceed 60 TB over the following four years. The backup window for the LTO tapes was reaching its limit, the process was prone to errors, and several defective tapes were discovered during checks.

The weekly tape rotation, including checking and correcting errors, took an average of one and a half hours. At the same time, almost static data that still needed to remain accessible and protected was occupying space on the primary SAN storage. Scheugenpflug therefore sought an integrated approach to backup, long-term storage and a separate archive for project data. The existing Veeam software had to remain usable.

The experience?

“We can now expand our backup capacity without any problems and always have access to the current status of the system.”

Markus Schmid, IT Manager at Scheugenpflug AG



Photos: Scheugenpflug, June 2017

COMEX

Removable Bricks for backup and NAS

Scheugenpflug selected the Silent Brick Library from FAST LTA for backups and NAS storage, alongside Silent Cubes with WORM storage for the long-term archiving of project data. Within the Library, the virtual tape library replaced the existing tape functionality, allowing Veeam to continue operating. Other Bricks were used as NAS storage for data that no longer needed to remain on the SAN.

The Bricks are removable: copies could be stored outside the active environment in a separate fire compartment. The team could also add capacity without having to select an entirely new backup system. This combination of VTL and NAS therefore suited both the existing management processes and the expected growth.

Shorter backups and more space on the SAN

After a few months, data backups were four times faster than before, according to the original case study. Removing a Brick and storing it elsewhere took just ten minutes, including walking time. The NAS functionality replaced the virtual archive server on the SAN, freeing up 11 TB of capacity. The team also gained direct visibility into the system's status and could expand backup capacity more easily.

For Schmid, the main change was in daily operations: less time spent on error-prone tape rotations, while the backup environment could grow alongside the increasing data volume. WORM archiving of project data continued to serve a separate purpose alongside operational backups and NAS storage.