Hewlett Packard Enterprise

ARI-Armaturen backs up data 30 percent faster

HPE Data Protector and HPE StoreOnce deliver faster, more reliable backups

Objective
Deliver faster, automated and reliable backups without affecting end-users

Approach
Consulted with HPE Partner DTS Systeme regarding an expansion to the existing infrastructure

IT Matters
- 30 percent faster backup times
- Eliminated performance bottlenecks
- Reduced IT workload via backup software automation

Business Matters
- No negative impact on business systems or end-user daily tasks
- Audit-proof data backups for business compliance
- Simpler server backup management via integrated backup software and hardware solution across heterogeneous environments

Challenge

Finding a simple way to create audit-proof backups

From industrial processes, chemistry and shipbuilding to large plant construction and building services engineering: ARI-Armaturen (ARI) has been providing expert solutions to help its customers control, trap, isolate and guide liquid and gaseous media for more than 60 years. Based in Schloss Holte-Stukenbrock in Westphalia, Germany, the company produces quality heavy-duty valves to the latest standards at its three manufacturing plants in Germany.

ARI's IT department needs to ensure that it provides the business with stable services as efficiently as possible. For many years ARI's data backup and recovery environment has been based on HPE StoreEver MSL tape libraries for storing data, HPE Data Protector for backup software application, and Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) partner DTS Systeme GmbH for support services.

"We have been using HPE Data Protector in combination with various HPE tape libraries for some 25 years now, and we have always been able to rely on them to create audit-proof backup copies of our data and applications automatically and hassle-free," says Franziska Jachmann, System/Network manager at ARI.

Case study
ARI-Armaturen

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"The combination of HPE Data Protector and HPE StoreOnce with its deduplication functionality has reduced the time taken to back up our Windows® server environment by some 30 percent."

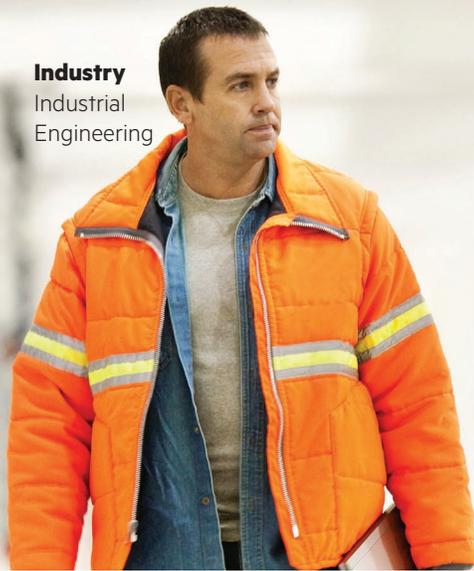– Franziska Jachmann, System/Network manager, ARI

Over the years, the valve manufacturer's backup environment has grown continuously to keep pace with the company's development. Founded in 1950, the owner-managed ARI Group now has more than 800 employees around the world. It has a total of 13 sales subsidiaries in Europe, the USA and Asia. The IT team at its headquarters creates and manages data backups for all of them using HPE Data Protector.

Some of the company's data is still stored on tapes in smaller HPE StoreEver MSL tape libraries in the individual national subsidiaries, but the majority is sent to larger HPE StoreEver MSL tape libraries in the data center at its headquarters. This is also where all of its business-critical applications such as Infor ERP, an MES system for its manufacturing department, a CRM system for sales, a QA system, a document management system, the central CAD/CAM system for its developers, a logistics application and the entire Microsoft® Office environment, are run. The company also operates a Citrix environment to connect to its subsidiaries and branch offices via virtual desktop.

In total, ARI backs up around 24 terabytes of data across its network all managed by using HPE Data Protector.

"Our IT landscape is very complex. In addition to a variety of business applications, we also run a number of different Linux and Microsoft operating systems and Oracle and Microsoft SQL databases," explains Jachmann. "Most of our systems we have in place have connected easily to HPE Data Protector for backup purposes."

Due to its considerable growth in data volumes – ARI estimates an increase of around five terabytes per year on average – the company's data backup and recovery infrastructure was beginning to reach its limits. The Windows server backups in particular were no longer able to be completed overnight or during weekends, so they had to continue into the working day. This led to performance bottlenecks which would affect end-users working in the company's various departments.

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Solution

Adding HPE StoreOnce to the existing HPE Data Protector backup environment

When ARI decided to introduce Infor's ERP business-management software and use a VMware cluster to virtualize the majority of its business applications, it was an ideal opportunity to modernize its data backup and recovery infrastructure as well.

"We quickly realized that we could create a hybrid disk and tape-based backup solution, made up of HPE StoreEver MSL Tape Libraries with HPE LTO-5 Ultrium Data Cartridges and HPE StoreOnce System. This would make our backups considerably faster," says Jachmann.

"At that time, HPE StoreOnce had only been on the market for a few months, but everything we had read about it sounded very promising, particularly the benefits of combining its deduplication technology and fibre channel capability with HPE Data Protector."

Jachmann decided to seek advice from the HPE Partner DTS Systeme to determine what the backup software solution would look like in terms of both the technology and licenses. DTS Systeme provided advice at every stage from budget planning to the final handover. The company also brought in expertise from HPE itself for more specialized queries.

ARI eventually chose two HPE StoreEver MSL4048 1 LTO-5 Ultrium 3000 SAS Libraries and an HPE StoreOnce 4500 system with HPE StoreOnce Catalyst software. The company also decided to upgrade to the latest version of HPE Data Protector at the same time. Well known to ARI HPE Data Protector provides ARI with complete data protection, real-time intelligence and guided optimization. It is an easy to use, consistent and quick data backup and recovery solution.

Customer at a glance

Hardware
- 2 x HPE StoreEver MSL4048 1 LTO-5 Ultrium 3000 SAS Library

- 2 x HPE StoreEver MSL LTO-5 Ultrium 3280 Fibre Channel Drive Upgrade Kits

- 1 x HPE StoreOnce 4500 System with StoreOnce Catalyst

Software
- HPE Data Protector

Our solution partners

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DTS Systeme
With three main business units (data centre, technologies and security), the DTS Group provides solutions that harmoniously combine on-site infrastructures, cloud solutions and security for corporate data.

The DTS IT AG Group, DTS Systeme GmbH has more than 140 employees across 8 sites in Herford, Berlin, Bochum, Bremen, Hamburg, Hanover. DTS has been providing expertise in consultation, installation and support for information and communication solutions, and managing critical sub-areas and complete IT infrastructures, since 1983.

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Benefit

30 percent faster backups

"The combination of having more drives, faster tape drives, HPE StoreOnce and the latest version HPE Data Protector with its integrated deduplication functionality has reduced backup times for our Windows server environment by some 30 percent – despite the fact that our data volumes have increased by ten percent since we migrated to Infor ERP," says Jachmann.

"HPE StoreOnce and HPE Data Protector are the perfect combination as together they have both accelerated our backups and reduced our restore times. Our end-users no longer experience performance drops in the production system, even when we have large, long and complicated backups to generate."

As Jachmann explains, the new environment is incredibly stable: "Since the introduction of the new backup environment, we have not experienced any issues. We are confident that if we do experience a disaster scenario, we will be able to get all of our business-critical applications and data up and running quickly."

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