

Veritas Backup Exec™ boosts efficiency of data protection and disaster recovery

OVERVIEW

Shelving Producer Builds More Efficient Data Protection with Backup Exec and Amazon S3

Italian manufacturer CAEM-Magrini SpA used to run manual backups on each server individually. However, rapid business growth left the company looking for a more efficient means of protecting its expanding volume of data. It turned to a data protection solution from Veritas™ that stores backup data on Amazon S3 cloud storage. By simultaneously streamlining backup and recovery processes, and adding the disaster recovery benefits of offsite storage, the solution provides CAEM with the top-shelf data protection it deserves.

EXPANDING BUSINESS, BALLOONING DATA VOLUME

CAEM was founded in 1958 as a sheet metal fabrication business. Two decades later, the company introduced its first modular shelving system, and soon thereafter, business took off. Today, the Italian firm produces shelves for retail and warehouse installations in Europe, the U.K., Australia, India, and Mexico, with revenues surpassing EUR 27 million per year.

As CAEM expanded, its data volume—and data protection costs—ballooned. “The space occupied by our data was growing at the same pace our company was expanding,” says Francesco Bartolomei, computer engineer at CAEM. “We wanted to keep this data safe while controlling our costs.”

Prior to 2012, the company used a data protection solution that required a separate, manual backup for every system. “Previously, each server had its own tool for backup,” Bartolomei says. “Managing data protection was quite inefficient.”

To streamline data protection, CAEM implemented Veritas Backup Exec™ in 2012. The solution centralised backup of CAEM’s applications and services, improving efficiency for the IT team. As the company’s data needs continued to grow, Bartolomei recognised an opportunity to further improve efficiency.



ORGANIZATION PROFILE

Website: caem.net

Industry: Manufacturing

Headquarters: Subbiano, Italy

Employees: 96

KEY CHALLENGES

CAEM wanted to improve efficiency and introduce offsite disaster recovery. The company’s data protection process entailed running manual backups on each server individually. With data stores growing as rapidly as its business, CAEM determined this process was unsustainable.

SOLUTION

The company rolled out Veritas Backup Exec™. Staff managed companywide data protection through a single interface, running daily backups to local storage devices. Then CAEM began running weekly backups to the Amazon S3 cloud.

BENEFITS

- Less storage hardware required, thanks to Backup Exec deduplication
- Cost-effective software licenses and cloud storage for backups
- Faster backups in Backup Exec, allowing more flexibility in scheduling backups
- Approx. 50% reduction in staff time dedicated to backups
- 99% recovery success rate achieved in near-daily data recovery
- Efficient disaster recovery achieved via offsite, cloud-based storage of backup data

"We run 14 virtual servers in a Microsoft Hyper-V cluster," he says. "Backups were beginning to take up more and more space. We saw that if we upgraded to latest version of Backup Exec, we could manage our data protection even more efficiently. The upgrade would also give us the option of writing data to Amazon S3. We did not have a disaster recovery solution. Cloud-based backups were very appealing because they offered an efficient way to ensure our data was protected even if our offices were destroyed."

"The combination of Backup Exec and Amazon cloud storage gives us disaster recovery capabilities without having to manage tapes or some other physical media. Now we know our data is secure."

*Francesco Bartolomei, Computer Engineer,
CAEM-Magrini SpA*

FASTER BACKUPS REQUIRING LESS STORAGE

In June 2017, CAEM deployed latest version of Backup Exec. The solution runs daily incremental backups to local storage devices, and once a week it runs a full backup to local storage. Twice a month, it also runs a full backup to Amazon S3 cloud, with weekly incremental backups to the cloud.

The local backups remain necessary because the company's 20 Mbps Internet connection, which is not dedicated to Backup Exec, would present bandwidth challenges if used for full backups every day. Bartolomei anticipates that when CAEM has a higher-bandwidth connection to Amazon S3, the company will eliminate the local storage and run all backups directly to the cloud.

"Our data volume increases by about 20 percent annually; it has doubled over the past five years," Bartolomei says. This tracks with the company's growing revenue. Year-over-year growth in turnover for CAEM-Magrini SpA was 23 percent in 2017. Thanks to Backup Exec deduplication, backup data is growing less rapidly.

"Deduplication has helped us save space and avoid having to buy further storage," Bartolomei says. "Backup Exec has saved a lot of space for high-rate virtual machines such as file servers."

Backup Exec has kept the cost of data protection under control. "Neither the cost of the licenses, nor the backup time, has increased in line with the amount of data we are backing up. And Backup Exec allows us to send backups of any internal server to the Amazon cloud storage. Amazon gives us a theoretically unlimited space at an acceptable and manageable cost."

Moreover, the acceleration of backups in the latest version of Backup Exec enables Bartolomei to schedule transfers to Amazon S3 for times when they are least likely to disrupt other business operations. "The speed of a complete backup is critical, to allow more freedom in the scheduling process," Bartolomei says. "With the latest version of Backup Exec, full backups take less time, giving us more flexibility in the scheduling process."

BACKUP EXEC SAVES STAFF TIME AS WELL

The solution is also saving time for CAEM's IT team. "Our routine maintenance check and monitoring of backups takes just about an hour every day," Bartolomei says. "Previously, backups often took two or more hours each day. We are saving at least 50 percent of the staff time that we used to spend on data protection."

Backup Exec has been essential in managing growth of the company's volume of backup data and minimizing the amount of staff time backups consume per protected system. Using a single interface to manage data protection across all the company's systems is much more efficient than the company's old method of managing backups on each machine individually. "We are saving time and money by managing all the backups for our entire infrastructure through one interface," Bartolomei adds.

99% RECOVERY SUCCESS BUILDS CONFIDENCE IN DATA PROTECTION

Most important, Bartolomei is confident in the data protection that Backup Exec provides. Backup Exec recovers data rapidly at any level of granularity with a single-pass backup. Bartolomei estimates the solution's backup success rate to be more than 90 percent and its recovery success rate to be 99 percent.

"We have two file servers," he says. "The recovery of individual files or folders is of key importance and happens almost every day because users accidentally delete files or need a previous version. The other big benefit of Backup Exec is that now we can

choose which version of the file to recover. With our previous solution, our only option was to restore the latest version that was backed up. The recovery of individual messages in a Microsoft Exchange mailbox has also proven extremely useful."

CAEM has also taken advantage of the ability of Backup Exec to quickly recover entire virtual machines with no staging. "About a year ago, we had a blackout over the weekend," Bartolomei reports. "We had to restore the domain controller's virtual machine to an alternative server in order to restart the Hyper-V cluster. Thanks to Backup Exec, we were up and running as usual in about 40 minutes."

Bartolomei sleeps better at night knowing that 3 TB of the company's most crucial data is backed up to the cloud. "We want to have recent backups on Amazon S3 so that we have that option for recovery in case of a severe system failure," he says. "The combination of Backup Exec and Amazon cloud storage gives us disaster recovery capabilities without having to manage tapes or some other physical media. Now we know our data is secure."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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