

CUSTOMER SUCCESS

UAP Holdings Limited

UAP Group Reduces Storage Needs with Veritas NetBackup™ Solutions

As a financial services provider, UAP Holdings Limited depends on efficiency and security as core pillars of its business. With 12 business units operating across Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, South Sudan, Rwanda, and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the company needed a solution that could support the rate of growth of its data while standardizing and simplifying backup across the many remote branches. To achieve this, the company selected Veritas NetBackup appliances. Results include a 7 percent reduction in storage needs and 97 percent decrease in full backup time from 2 days to 1.5 hours.



Better. Simple. Life.

Organization profile

Website: www.uap-group.com

Industry: Financial Services

Headquarters: Kenya

Employees: 500+

Key challenges

TUAP had an IT infrastructure spanning many remote sites that was rapidly increasing in size. The company needed to streamline backup processes and management.

Solution

The company selected Veritas NetBackup™ 5230 appliances for their ability to improve backup and data management processes, while ensuring the security of data.

Benefits

- Reduced storage needs by 7%
- Decreased time taken for complete backup from 2 days to 1.5 hours
- Increased IT team productivity
- Easy to deploy and manage
- High customer satisfaction

Growing fast

UAP Group is a pan-African Financial Services Group with interests in insurance, investment management, property investments and developments, securities brokerage, and related financial services. Currently, UAP has 12 businesses operating in Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Rwanda, and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and they are market leaders in their respective fields. UAP Holdings is the holding company for the various UAP businesses.

The company in its current form was formed in 1994, and regionally, UAP Holdings Limited is now the second largest insurer in Uganda and the first foreign underwriter in Southern Sudan. Since 2000, the company has grown tremendously in revenue, assets, and geographical expansion. Revenues have since tripled and net assets have grown more than five times.

“To ensure our IT infrastructure could support our business growth, we were looking for a solution that could provide an effective data management tool that would enable us to centrally control data processes across our many remote offices, and cater to our need for speedy backup and recovery processes. On top of that, we also needed a solution that would assist with limiting unnecessary data growth, while also ensuring the safety and security of our data. What we found in Veritas’ NetBackup solutions catered perfectly to our requirements, while also giving us added business benefits.”

James Mwaniki

Head of Group Network

UAP Group

A need to simplify backup

With 12 business units operating across Africa and growing, UAP had systems that were difficult to back up and restore, along with difficulty validating the integrity of backups. Previously, the company backed up to tape, but that was proving increasingly inefficient, especially as UAP’s data growth had been expanding exponentially since 2010. To ensure that the business could continue to grow, the company needed to reduce backup time and control storage requirements. Furthermore, financial services organizations were facing an increasing number of cyber threats, and UAP needed to enhance its IT security processes.

Consolidating, centralizing and standardizing

UAP required a solution that would streamline backup. After reviewing leading industry solutions, UAP Holdings Limited selected Veritas NetBackup™ 5230 Appliances. The NetBackup solution was chosen because it combines backup software, deduplication, replication, servers, storage, and networking in an integrated, optimized 3U appliance. This speeds deployment and simplifies support. UAP was impressed with the solution’s centralized data protection management capability, enabling the company to consolidate all its disparate data sources from its many remote sites. To address its need for fast, business-oriented recovery processes, the solution’s powerful granular restore and fast enhanced recovery were key factors in the decision.

UAP also selected the NetBackup appliance for its expandable storage capabilities and intelligent end-to-end deduplication, reducing storage costs and improving utilization. Veritas V-Ray technology in NetBackup enables visibility into virtual and physical environments from a single pane of glass, simplifying management and speeding recoveries.

The solution’s ability to provide faster transfer rate for backups to the cloud and for replicating data off-site also enhances the ability to support remote offices. Finally, the solution’s built-in security capabilities were a key attraction for its selection.

Like any financial services organization, UAP Holdings Limited must comply with a stringent set of regulations when it comes to data management, storage, and security. As such, its team also reviewed the solutions on offer, and chose Veritas NetBackup for the advanced model of encryption that it offered.

Speeding up backup while saving storage

UAP has seen a range of operational and financial benefits since implementing the Veritas NetBackup solutions.

The company has significantly improved its data growth management processes and curbed its storage growth since deployment. Deduplication has reduced backup storage needs by 7 percent, and the company is also now able to monitor storage levels in real time, yielding operational benefits.

UAP’s backup processes have also been overhauled. Full backups have been reduced from 2 days to only 1.5 hours. The company now has advanced granular backup and recovery capabilities, enabling files to be restored on a particular file basis—a problem which previously required an outside company that specialized in backup recovery to solve. Furthermore, data availability has been significantly improved. Replication can now occur in real time, since it no longer affects the production environment.

Solutions

Veritas NetBackup™ 5230 Appliances



For more information:

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Finally, since implementation, UAP's overall IT and data management processes have seen improvements and efficiencies. The IT team is now able to generate automated reports on storage use which show the company executives and stakeholders the efficiencies being achieved. The automated processes now in place as a result of the NetBackup solutions have also allowed the team to see significant improvements in productivity since they are spending 97 percent less time managing backups.

Looking ahead

With a fast growing business spanning Africa, UAP Group will continue its mission to be Africa's revolutionary financial services company and offer its customers the best service, assisting in championing their financial freedom, all giving them peace of mind by ensuring the utmost safety and security. Moving forward, the company will continue its partnership with Veritas to support and optimize its IT infrastructure through its continued growth.