

Worldwide Aerospace Leader Realizes Speed, Reliability and an Ease of Scalability Through Deployment of New Backup & Recovery Solution

Zodiac Aerospace is a world leader in aerospace equipment and systems for commercial, regional and business aircraft, as well as helicopters and space applications. It has approximately 100 sites across the globe and employs over 30,000 people.

Challenge

A gap had formed between Zodiac's backup and recovery needs and what the organization's previous solution was able to deliver. As it aged, the solution could no longer be counted upon to perform backups or restores in a timely, reliable manner. These shortcomings could prove painful, especially considering the cost of lost data and downtime in the manufacturing vertical.

There was also the very real threat posed by intrusive software such as malware and ransomware. Without a strong safety net in place to allow for speedy recovery, a business could be faced with the undesirable options of paying off attackers or saying goodbye to affected data.

Less severe of a concern, yet still a sticking point, was the fact that Zodiac's previous solution lacked the robust feature sets common to more modern offerings. This, when lumped in with those more serious challenges, compelled Zodiac to begin searching for a replacement.

Solution

Zodiac engaged Arraya Solutions' Data Management Practice for guidance and insight into the process of selecting a new backup and recovery solution and also to take the lead during the deployment phase.

As with every partnership of this type, Arraya's team began by performing a health check of the customer's environment to better familiarize themselves with its current state. This health check confirmed the concerns Zodiac had about its solution and helped to crystalize them in the minds of Arraya's team. Arraya took the data uncovered by the health check, and what was learned through discussions with Zodiac's team, and used that to craft a solution that would address the full slate of the manufacturer's needs.

Arraya recommended moving Zodiac to a backup and recovery environment built on Dell EMC's Data Protection Suite, which includes Avamar and Data Domain solutions. In this pairing, Avamar would serve the role of backup DMA, or the brains of the operation, as opposed to the landing spot for the backups themselves. That duty would be handled by Data Domain due to its highly-efficient deduplication algorithm, its high bandwidth for ingesting data, and its smaller, denser footprint.

Solution

As previously mentioned, Zodiac is a manufacturer with an international focus and it has facilities spread across the globe. Even though its facilities are connected under the same umbrella, they have a great deal of autonomy to make their own choices. It turns out another of the company's facilities had already embraced Avamar and Data Domain, creating something of a pre-existing internal case study for the local branch.

Beyond that, Arraya has seen the value of tightly-integrated Avamar/Data Domain pairings time and again at customer sites. They bring speed, reliability, and an ease of scalability – three things Zodiac's solution at the time lacked. Avamar and Data Domain also provide near-instantaneous recovery for virtual machines.

On the subject of a more modern set of features, Dell EMC's Data Protection Suite has plenty to offer. It can give customers access to tools like DP Search (which can be used to easily find files within archived backups). There's also CloudBoost – which activates the cloud as a possible backup landing spot – and Data Protection Advisor – which reduces management complexity through automation and concentration of backup collection and analysis – among other features.

Arraya made a case to Zodiac based on those merits and left little doubt about the right choice for the manufacturer.

Results

Once the deal was finalized, Arraya deployed Data Protection Suite and executed a knowledge transfer with members of Zodiac's onsite IT team. No one could have predicted just how soon Zodiac's new backup and recovery environment would be put to the test.

Less than a week later, many of Zodiac's VMs were hit with a CryptoLocker attack. CryptoLocker is a type of ransomware that attempts to extort its victims by encrypting their files and promising the decryption key for a fee. While this situation was far from ideal, the timing – post Avamar/Data Domain deployment – couldn't have been better for the manufacturer.

Zodiac's IT team reached out to Arraya for help resolving the attack, which Arraya was happy to provide. Avamar and Data Domain lived up to their billing and, by working together, Zodiac and Arraya restored the affected VMs in less than two minutes with no data loss whatsoever. The combination of quick action and a best-of-breed backup and recovery solution transformed a possible worst case scenario into a mere bump in the road.