The French Somme Department opts for Atempo Backstone for its multi-site data protection

CLIENT: **SOMME DEPARTMENT COUNTY AUTHORITY**
SECTOR: : **PUBLIC**

The French Somme Department Public Authority

The Somme department in North-West France is one of the best known French departments not least because of the role played by the Battle of the Somme in 1916 during the First World War. The Somme has many areas of outstanding natural beauty not least the bay area which is home to a multitude of flora and fauna.

The Department's Governing Authority (DDTM) central offices are located in the regional capital, Amiens. The DDTM is responsible for implementing policy in the areas of among others: agriculture, housing, transport, urban and rural development and renewables. In addition to the Amiens site, there are several offices in other county towns.

The authority generates large amounts of critical and sensitive data which of course needs to be protected locally and off site. We spoke to Christophe Errard who is in charge of protecting data, systems and applications on 5 separate sites in the Somme department.

The challenges

Data growth, reduced team sizes and strict made the choice of the latest backup solution all the more crucial. It was clear that the use of LTO tape was no longer possible due to the time constraints and ever-evolving formats imposed by this media.

Christophe Errard felt that the pillar of a new data protection solution would be based on fluid replication movement between the different sites. And that there was always one off site backup data copy for each of the sites including the high-volume Amiens data center.

The Backstone appliance was the logical choice for the DDT because it could potentially answer local protection needs, offsite data between appliances and ensure rapid recovery for any type of data loss situation.

" We do not receive this level of service with other much bigger vendors. I've rarely seen more efficient service. "

Christophe Errard,
IT Systems and Network
Administrator, Somme
Department, France

The solution

The solution the DDT opted for in 2018 was to install 5 Backstone Appliances: 2 x 24 TB machines on the main Amiens site for primary and replicated backups and three other smaller appliances (2 TB) on three other sites. The DDT has a wide variety of Windows and Linux operating systems mainly running on physical servers with plans to virtualize in the short term. Each remote appliance replicates data centrally. The 3-2-1 backup rule is respected and tape is no longer required for offsite or secondary backup.

In the words of Christophe Errard: "*We are happy because we have full flexibility over how we handle our backups and how we manage retention periods*". The DDT now has a full range of yearly, monthly, weekly and daily backups to ensure recovery granularity is completely respected for all users. Since the solution has been up and running the teams have successfully tested real-life restorations of user data with speed, security and accuracy. The way available data to restore is represented in clear tree structures makes this task much easier than the former backup solution

Globally, Christophe is very pleased with the choice of Atempo Backstone. The fact that Atempo is headquartered in France meant that some lengthy discussions with the DDT concerning installation and operational security constraints. It is Christophe's opinion that these discussions would have been difficult or even impossible with another vendor with less on-the-ground experience with the French Public Sector.

The overriding cause for satisfaction has come through the level of customer support from Atempo sales and technical teams throughout the process.

"*We do not receive this level of service with other much bigger vendors. I've rarely seen more efficient service*" explained Christophe. Each of his questions or requests is always met with a rapid and clear response and excellent follow up to ensure each step of the testing, installation and production phases was completely on the money.

Backstone backs up and replicates DDT data to 5 sites

CHALLENGES

- Reduced IT teams

- Several sites with few remote IT staff

- Tape no longer a viable option but local storage a necessity

- Local protection and off-site replication a prerequisite

SOLUTION

- 5 Atempo Backstone Appliances

- Replication between sites to a central location

"*Since the solution has been up and running the teams have successfully tested real-life restorations of user data with speed, security and accuracy*"

Christophe Errard,
IT Systems and Network Administrator,
Somme Department, France

update 2020-04-30