

Automated data security for printing service providers

Bukowski Composition Services GmbH depends on a reliable backup and archiving solution for managing text, image and layout files from the prepress process. With the help of its longtime IT service provider, Merlin GmbH, the Northwest Germany-based company has implemented StorageLibrary T40 from Tandberg Data. The Library allows Bukowski to profit from a fully automated backup solution and greater data security.



SATZDIENST BUKOWSKI GmbH
 Typographie und Daten

Headquartered in the Northwest German town of Bramsche, Bukowski has been providing foreign language typesetting services for 40 years. Its customers include printers, publishers, composition firms, advertising agencies and industrial companies with locations overseas who need their manuals, technical documentation or advertising material typeset in many different languages and country-specific character sets. For over 10 years, the company has also been involved in the particularly time-critical composition of weekly and daily newspapers.

The growing expansion of these business areas has placed increased demands on the IT systems, especially on the availability of archived formatting data. The service provider is therefore partially required to hold the data for advertisement layouts for at least 24 months. In these cases, the large quantities of saved text files, and graphic files in particular (psd, txt, qxd, indd, pdf, jpg, eps, tif), require an enormous storage capacity.

Dual-function Tape

The data security strategy developed by Merlin in accordance with these requirements calls for the stored data to be recorded on two different sets of tapes. One copy is to be kept on-site and serves as a backup copy for fast recovery. The second copy is stored in a different building for archival purposes.

Once the quantity of data from the daily backup routine exceeded 500GB, the previously implemented backup solution, a tape library from Qualstar with AIT-3 drive technology, could no longer meet the demands. Its performance was insufficient for storing the data twice within 6 hours, and its capacity per tape was too low, requiring the cartridges to be manually changed during an increasing number of backup jobs. Since manual tape changes represent an additional security risk for critical business data, the decision was made together with IT provider Merlin to switch to a new backup solution. In addition to better capacity and performance, the company was looking for a scalable and reliable tape library.

Merlin GmbH Information Technology has provided the Bramsche-based company with IT services for many years and therefore has first-hand knowledge of its requirements and relationships. Bukowski was also able to rely on the Bielefeld-based IT provider's competence and expertise in evaluating the new backup system. By working closely together, they found a data protection solution that could not only handle the routine daily storage of 550GB of data, but also manage the 1.3TB of data expected within 12 months. The solution of choice was StorageLibrary T40 from Tandberg Data.

Solution Overview



Tandberg Data StorageLibrary T40
 with 24 slots, LTO-3

SUN SAM-FS

SUN Fire 280R with Solaris 9.x

Nexsan ATAboy 1.5 TB

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Carsten Bukowski, CEO
Satzdienst Bukowski

Competent Advice

“We recommended the implementation of Tandberg Data’s StorageLibrary T40 to Bukowski. The design of the device is compact and reliable. At the same time, the system is easily scalable and maintenance is simple. The fact that Tandberg Data offers a three-year warranty and, compared to many others, competent on-site support, was also very important for us,” stated Raimund Pinisch, CEO of Merlin GmbH.

Merlin’s solution initially calls for an interim backup on disk, i.e., disk-to-disk synchronization, as well as a backup to tape. In this process, the data is mirrored on a RAID system and its redundancy is maintained. The system serves as a buffer between host and library, ensuring that the data is automatically archived on the tapes. This is done using the modular StorageLibrary T40 from Tandberg Data.

Implementation on the fly

Once the solution was selected, the complete system was delivered and installed within two weeks. To avoid interrupting business operations, Merlin implemented the complete backup solution on a Monday. On Saturdays, Bukowski is normally busy with the composition of the Sunday newspaper and can not afford any data loss or interruption of business.

First, the Nexsan ATAboy RAID storage device with a capacity of 1.5TB was installed, and the server software was updated and activated. Then, the RAID system was connected to a Fibre Channel switch and to the Tape Library. Within 24 hours, all data was copied from the old solution to the new library.

Bukowski uses a T40-type library with 24 slots. This can be expanded to 40 slots by using Capacity on Demand (CoD). An LTO-3 drive provides the necessary transfer rate (80MB/s) for archiving. The tape library currently holds over 10 tapes plus a cleaning cartridge and is designed for adequate reliability and scalability. A SUN Fire 280R with Solaris 9.x functions as a backup server and a SUN SAM-FS as a data security and archiving solution. The system supports various platforms, applications, databases and users of the solution such as Windows, Macintosh, Linux and Solaris, Primbase SQL for AWARD+LT digital object management, Helios Ethershare, PCshare and Imageserver for linking clients over SMB and AFP.

Scheduled and automated backups

Daily backups are still conducted at night. By using SAM-FS, a full backup is always available. All processes run automatically, requiring only the removal of the tapes from the device and their delivery to an off-site secure location.

“The maintenance and administration of the systems are handled by Merlin via VPN. We also work on Sundays, and can’t afford any delays in the composition of a newspaper. That’s why it’s especially important for us to be able to reach a contact person on the weekend. So far we have had no problems with the Tandberg Data Library. We rely 100% on this solution,” says Carsten Bukowski, CEO of Bukowski Composition Services.

The backup system continues to run without interruptions or problems. Currently around 550GB is stored via two backups on different tape sets. Only the RAID system suffered one interruption. The lost data was restored and recovered from the tapes within one hour. The capacity level is also perfectly sufficient and an expansion of the solution is not planned for at least another six months.

“We are completely satisfied with the Tandberg data solution. The system is completely automated and we’ve achieved better performance. The data is stored more quickly and reliably and, above all, we have significantly more capacity,” says Carsten Bukowski. “We selected the scalable StorageLibrary T40 as a solution for the future. Although we’re currently not in need of an expansion, it’s a great feeling to know that we can easily upgrade the system on demand.”

Bukowski Composition Services is comprised of an effective team of eleven specialized staff members. To ensure that none of them need to set aside their regular duties to handle administrative tasks, longtime partner Merlin handles the complete administration of the IT systems.



“We rely 100% on this solution”

Carsten Bukowski, CEO
Satzdienst Bukowski

About Tandberg Data

Tandberg Data is a leading global supplier of backup and archiving technologies. Tandberg Data offers a complete range of tape libraries, tape autoloaders and tape drives (based on the LTO™, SLR™, VXA® tape technology platforms), storage software, data media and disk-based storage such as the RDX™ QuikStor. These solutions are marketed exclusively through a channel of qualified resellers and distributors. These solutions are underpinned by OEM agreements with major server manufacturers including IBM, Hitachi, Fujitsu, Fujitsu-Siemens, Apple and Dell and supported by all major operating systems and storage software applications to operate in heterogeneous network environments. All solutions are designed to meet the growing storage requirements of small and medium-sized organisations with scalability, reliability and backward compatibility features that ensure cost effective operation and long-term investment protection.

Tandberg Data ASA
Økernveien 94
N-0579 Oslo
Norway
Tel: +47 (0) 2218 9090
Fax: +47 (0) 2218 9550

Tandberg Data Corporation
2108 55th Street
Boulder, CO 80301
USA
Tel: 303.442.4333
Fax: 303.417.7170

Tandberg Data GmbH
Feldstrasse 81
44141 Dortmund
Germany
Tel: +49 (0) 231 5436 - 0
Fax: +49 (0) 231 5436 - 111

Tandberg Data (Asia) Pte Ltd
20 Bendemeer Road
#04-05 Cyberhub
Singapore 339914
Tel: +65 (0) 6396 0786
Fax: +65 (0) 6396 0787

Tandberg Data (Japan) Inc.
Eitaibashi Eco-Piazza Bldg., 8th floor
29-13, Shinkawa 1-chome,
Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-033, Japan
Tel: +81 (0) 355 662 871
Fax: +81 (0) 355 662 875