

A VOHKUS DATA CENTRE SOLUTION

RAPID RESPONSE THROUGH DR INNOVATION



VERITAS



Specialist Partner
Data Protection with NetBackup

Vohkus services:

Consultancy, design, architecture,
tech sourcing, project management.

Technologies used:

Data centre: Servers
Data centre: Storage
Data centre: Software (virtualisation)

Industry:

Healthcare

Business drivers:

Business agility / growth
Cost
Quality of service
Risk / compliance

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Resilient infrastructure for South East Coast Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust

The South East Coast Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust's legacy infrastructure and proprietary computer-aided dispatch platform was constraining its overall performance, response times and disaster recovery capability. It approached Vohkus to design and implement a highly-resilient and performant replacement solution.

CHALLENGES

- ▶ Replace paper-based invocation of disaster recovery processes.
- ▶ Reduce single points of failure.
- ▶ Improve agility, manageability and recovery objectives.
- ▶ Automate and replicate services between geographically disparate locations

SOLUTIONS

- ▶ Design and planning workshops, including system audits, analysis of system usage, and interviews with LOB stakeholders.
- ▶ Open system architecture implementation, including compute (HP blades), storage (EMC), virtualisation (VMWare) and backup (Symantec/Veritas), with dedicated fibre channel connectivity.
- ▶ Separate DR site with system backup data replicated between sites and onto dedicated system.

OUTCOMES

- ▶ Improved compliance posture.
- ▶ Improved service response times.
- ▶ Improved recovery time objectives.

ABOUT VOHKUS

Vohkus delivers IT enabled business solutions and services, and is a trusted technology partner for both private and public sector clients, many of whom operate across the globe.

Our capability is end2end:

Consult >>> Design >>> Supply >>> Deploy >>> Manage >>> Support

DATA CENTRE SERVICES FROM VOHKUS

Vohkus combines extensive experience of architecting data centre solutions with in-depth technical knowledge of all relevant server, storage and networking components. We work with the world's leading vendors of server, storage, networking and related technologies.

We work with traditional, hybrid and cloud platforms, providing a common approach to project governance, and a thorough commercial and technical validation of each solution.

Our converged infrastructure and network solutions combine simplicity, security, governance and control with agility, performance and cost advantages.

We can even take on management of the entire infrastructure for you.

Situation

South East Coast Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust (SECAmb) covers a geographical area of 3,600 square miles and employs over 3,300 staff working across 110 sites in Kent, Surrey and Sussex. Its single site legacy infrastructure and proprietary computer-aided dispatch platform were hampering its aims of improving efficiency and reducing response times, and required considerable manual intervention for disaster recovery (DR) purposes.

SECAmb approached Vohkus to design and implement a highly-resilient and performant replacement solution. The project involved migrating from the legacy platform to an open system architecture capable of supporting virtualisation and providing built-in DR functionality.

The project

Vohkus consultants co-ordinated a series of design and planning workshops to ascertain the feasibility of the overall project, to examine the plethora of third party interdependencies, and to determine the specification of hardware required to cater for current and future workloads. Vohkus also carried out audits of the existing systems, analysis of patterns and workloads, and stakeholder and line-of-business interviews before recommending a single solution that would incorporate elements from multiple specialist vendors.

Vohkus project managed the implementation, the migration of services and data, and decommissioning of the old system. The new architecture used HPE blades for compute services, communicating through dedicated fibre channel fabrics to EMC storage. This, in turn, communicated with a separate DR site using an EMC RecoverPoint appliance capable of rolling points in time back and forward. This approach dramatically reduced the recovery time objectives (RTO) that could be achieved.

Agility and manageability were achieved through virtualisation using VMware, with Site Recovery Manager enabling seamless business continuity failover between sites. For further DR capability and compliance, Symantec/Veritas backup software was added to replicate data between sites and onto tape.

Technology to support a vital service IT projects typically adhere to success criteria such as cost reduction, increased performance, ease of use and reducing management overheads. While all these were achieved through the SECAmb project, the ultimate objective was to help save lives.

SECAmb now has a highly resilient system with no single point of failure, capable of helping reduce response times, meeting compliance criteria, and ensuring constant IT service availability.