



SILVER PEAK HELPS IMSERV IMPROVE DATA PROTECTION AND DISASTER RECOVERY

Energy data management provider improves data protection and lowers disaster recovery costs

IMServ needed help in transferring growing volumes of data between its data centre in Milton Keynes to its disaster recovery (DR) site 50 miles away. The company chose Silver Peak's virtual wide area network (WAN) optimiser to improve the availability of the WAN connection, thus transforming its disaster recovery (DR) strategy and avoiding the upfront investment of a costly bandwidth upgrade.

"Our priority is protecting our customer's data, which means sending it from the live site to the disaster recovery centre as fast, secure, and efficiently as possible," said Morgan Rogers, head of IT technical at IMServ. "Before deploying Silver Peak, we were approaching a barrier with our data replication, and as an IT manager I wanted as little disruption to our services as possible. Upgrading bandwidth was not a preferred option, so we decided that if we couldn't make the pipe fatter, then we would make the data move faster. As well as Silver Peak's WAN optimisation software fitting unobtrusively on top of our existing infrastructure, we were able to integrate it with our data replication products, and natively with our chosen SAN infrastructure, and install it in less than 20 minutes. However, what really made it stand out was the subscription pricing model, which made the whole process a lot more financially feasible."

BACKGROUND

With more than 400 servers and around 250 users, IMServ manages highly time critical secure customer data and relies heavily on high network performance, stability, and availability. Faced with a static infrastructure,

IMServ's technical team was finding it difficult to cope with the exponential growth of current and historic data it was starting to manage. IMServ's data usage began to approach its private WAN bandwidth allowance, which would have resulted in escalating costs. The company was subsequently under growing pressure to optimise its existing IT infrastructure in a way that would improve data delivery, increase flexibility and reduce expenditure.

IMServ first considered upgrading to a larger wide area network (WAN) link. However, the location of the DR site, along with the large upfront payment needed for bandwidth that may not be fully utilised, made IMServ consider this a sub-optimal solution. Subsequently, the company turned to leading IT solutions reseller, Future Generations Solutions (FGGL), who recommended maximising the existing WAN efficiency between both sites.

SILVER PEAK SAVES THE DAY

Having considered other known WAN optimisation providers, IMServ chose to deploy Silver Peak for its high performance, simple deployment and flexible pricing model. It deployed Silver Peak's VX-5000 virtual WAN optimiser at its main data centre in Milton Keynes and its disaster recovery site located 50 miles away. Using real-time Forward Error Correction (FEC) capabilities, TCO acceleration and Network Memory capabilities with advanced de-duplication and compression, Silver Peak's virtual solutions significantly improve the availability of the WAN connection.

Customer: IMSERV

Business Challenges

- Growing volumes of data
- Managing highly time critical secure customer data
- Escalating costs

Technical Challenge

- 50-mile distance between IMServ's data centre in Milton Keynes and its disaster recovery site
- A static infrastructure
- Data usage was projected to exceed the current network bandwidth allowance

Network Background

- More than 400 servers and around 250 users
- Integrated with existing data replication products
- Installed in less than 20 minutes

Silver Peak Results

- Lower disaster recovery costs
- Improved data protection
- Increased data availability
- Avoided a costly bandwidth upgrade
- Outages and planned maintenance work can be easily managed without any downtime

LESSONS LEARNT

Since deploying Silver Peak's WAN optimisation software, IMServ has transformed its DR strategy, without the upfront investment of a costly bandwidth upgrade. Outages and planned maintenance work can be easily managed without any downtime, and the company has seen data availability increase, particularly with some of the migrations on-the-fly elements of virtualisation.

"When we initially installed the trial version of Silver Peak's software, it made such a difference that we just couldn't turn it off," continued Rogers. "Right from the start, it made our private leased lines run at 4X the speed giving us little incentive to go elsewhere."

CONCLUSION

Ultimately, Silver Peak and FGGL helped IMServ to increase its network availability, thus ensuring customers' data can be moved between its data centre and DR site more efficiently and securely. As well as benefiting from operational benefits, economically the company has avoided the upfront investment of a costly WAN bandwidth upgrade.

For more information on Silver Peak's products you can [click here](#).

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