# SYMPHONY GROUP REDUCES RPO FROM HOURS TO SECONDS WITH SILVER PEAK

*Virtual WAN optimisation solution improves data replication performance over distance and helps company easily meet RPOs*

Following a complete data centre refresh last year, Symphony Group began to experience network performance issues between its main site in Barnsley and its disaster recovery (DR) site in Warwick. As such, the company was struggling to replicate data, meet its recovery point objectives (RPOs), and transfer large volumes of data between both locations. Since deploying Silver Peak wide area network (WAN) optimisation software, the company has reduced its recovery point to 20 seconds.

"It is absolutely critical for our business operations that we are able to replicate data between our sites in a timely fashion," said Ruth Rew, Group IT manager at Symphony Group. "Before deploying Silver Peak, we carried out a data centre refresh, which enabled us to asynchronously replicate all of our data to the DR site. However, this was essentially the grain of sand that tipped the scale. Our IT department could not move all of our data and achieve the RPO we required; furthermore the process was putting huge strain on our day to day business operations. Our main focus was to improve our RPO, which with Silver Peak's software, has reduced dramatically from hours to just seconds."

## BACKGROUND

With the company's headquarters and remote data centre more than 100 miles apart from each other, Symphony Group required a solution that would enable them to replicate data over long distance quickly and efficiently. Using Veeam and IBM XIV storage, Symphony Group quickly found that the data mobility between the sites was being limited by the

100 megabit-per-second (Mbps) network bandwidth allowance, making it increasingly difficult for the company to meet its RPOs. With budget constraints in mind, Symphony Group required an affordable solution that would allow them to meet their RPOs without needing to re-architect its existing network.

## SILVER PEAK SAVES THE DAY

Symphony Group turned to leading technology consultancy, Krome, for a solution that would maximise replication throughput over the WAN. The company had tried and tested WAN optimisation in the past, but this time it was different. Symphony Group chose to deploy the Silver Peak replication acceleration (VRX) software, which was purpose-built for storage and could scale to over 1 gigabit-per-second (Gbps) connections. In addition, Silver Peak easily integrated with Symphony Group's existing IBM XIV and Veeam backup software, and offered a budget-friendly flexible subscription pricing model.

## LESSONS LEARNT

Since deploying Silver Peak, Symphony Group has been able to replicate 110 gigabytes (GB) of data per hour between the two sites with no performance issues, enabling the company to meet its stringent RPOs. The company is now able to use its existing 100 Mbps connection more effectively, without the need for a costly re-architecture of the network, or any upfront financial costs.

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## Customer: SYMPHONY GROUP

### Business Challenges
- A data centre refresh put significant strain on day-to-day business operations
- Budget constraints meant a solution needed to be cost-effective

### Technical Challenge
- Long distance between the company headquarters and DR data centre
- Limited by the 100 Mbps network bandwidth allowance
- Unable to meet its stringent RPOs

### Technical Background
- The DR site was 100 miles away from the company headquarters
- Appliances used included IBM XIV storage
- Used Veeam backup software

### Silver Peak Results
- RPO has been reduced from hours to 20 seconds
- 110 GB/hr of data now replicated between sites with no performance issue
- 100 Mbps connection now used more effectively

existing network infrastructure; a process that would have been extremely expensive," continued Rew. "Silver Peak's subscription pricing model made the whole process a lot more financially viable. As soon as we put Silver Peak in, the results were almost instant."

## CONCLUSION

Silver Peak has helped Symphony Group significantly reduce its RPO from hours to seconds, without the need to invest in additional bandwidth. Data can now be replicated and transferred from the company's headquarters to the DR Data Centre.