Empowered by Innovation NEC

SPIRAX SARCO FRANCE

***Spirax Sarco SAS** is part of the British **SPIRAX SARCO Engineering** Group, which has 100 years of experience in steam installations in all industrial sectors. In this capacity, the company offers its expertise, products and services relating to the use of steam, allowing its customers to make the best investment and optimise their industrial processes while still saving on energy.*

Consolidating systems, backing up data, implementing disaster recovery measures

The context

Spirax Sarco France uses trade applications and conventional solutions (file sharing, messaging, etc.) which were installed on around thirty X86 servers, themselves integrated and spread over 3 racks. Its ERP (JD Edwards application, published by Oracle) was hosted on an IBM AS400, separated from the rest of the network and requiring specific back-up procedures.

The relationship between **SPIRAX SARCO France** and NEC was embarked upon several years ago and has only gone from strength to strength. Trust was gradually built up, and NEC switched from being an infrastructure provider to an integrator of solutions.

In 2010, SPIRAX SARCO entrusted NEC with a project that was deployed in two phases: the consolidation of application systems and data backup, followed by the implementation of a disaster recovery plan (DRP).

The problems

The IT department wanted to equip itself with a secure, high-performance architecture.
The first objective was to simplify and improve the administration of the “hardware” and “software” resources so as to rapidly respond to the changing needs generated by the business. The new architecture should allow a flexible and quick response to deployment requests for new services and applications.

The second objective was to secure the data sent from the 4 remote sites in Aix, Rennes, Toulouse and Lille to the central site at Trappes and to back up all the data at the central site.

The third objective was to provide protection in the event of a disaster by establishing a Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP) for the critical applications.

EXPECTED BENEFITS

- Simplification of the IT resource administration and improvement in services
- Flexibility and responsiveness to deployment requests
- Centralisation and security of data
- Guarantee of services for critical applications

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The collaboration with NEC

- From the start, all the NEC infrastructures used were implemented by technical teams from the manufacturer. The customer is very pleased to have this direct link when it comes to integrating systems and solutions.
- As well as the functionality offered by the NEC solutions, **Spirax Sarco France** appreciates the reliability of the systems and the manufacturer’s teams. All the stages in the two projects were prepared and validated jointly in accordance with the deadlines and functionalities agreed with NEC.

TESTIMONIES

“The IT department at Spirax Sarco in France enjoys a fairly large degree of independence in terms of its operation and decision-making. This allows us to manage our projects at quite a steady pace. The responsiveness and expertise of NEC, who we have got to know as an integrator of solutions and as an infrastructure provider, reassures us and guarantees that deadlines and commitments will be honoured.”

Pascal Goyffon - Head of IT

Prospects in the short term

The storage capacity needs to be increased so as to meet the growing need for the virtualisation of applications and the data that results from this.

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THE SOLUTION

To meet the needs expressed in **Spirax Sarco France**'s specifications, NEC presented a multi-pronged response which impressed the IT department with its functionality and relevance.

The first stage consisted of implementing:

- An architecture of virtual servers, built on VMware ESX Infrastructure and Virtual Center.
- A redundant SAN (Storage Area Network) architecture on the quad-core biprocessor servers, a fibre storage system and a backup library, with all of this equipment being VMware certified.
- A Symantec Backup Exec DLO (Desktop & Laptop Option) solution to provide backups for the remote sites.
- The VMware VCB (VMware Consolidated Backup) function, combined with Symantec Backup Exec for the backup of data and applications (database, etc.). This backup is performed on a storage array with SATA hard disks. From there, the data is archived onto tapes by the library.

The second stage concerned the migration of the ERP and the securing of data

The two options that were open to the IT department of Spirax Sarco France were to **migrate their ERP on a European scale** or to **manage this migration and to host it locally**. On reflection, it was the local option that was adopted. NEC and Spirax Sarco approached Oracle to check on the feasibility. Reassured, the IT department in France now felt ready and sufficiently prepared to move forward with NEC on this crucial issue. Before the ERP was migrated, it was necessary to boost the power of the servers, as well as the storage and backup capacities.

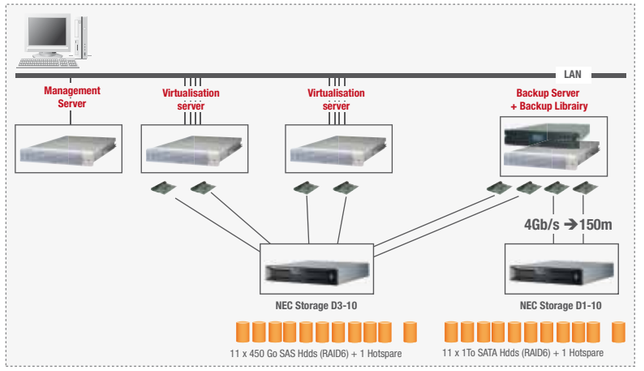
The IT department wanted to complete this new architecture in meeting some new requirements. As audits had revealed the necessity for the company to protect itself in the event of a disaster, and because the hosted applications were critical, the IT department asked NEC to consider implementing a Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP) between two sites 250 metres apart, linked by a fibre connection.

CONSOLIDATION OF SERVERS AND BACKUP OF DATA

Expected benefits

- Optimum administration of server pool
- Strengthening of data security

The architecture of the central site



Details of the solution provided

Trappes site:

- 2 NEC R120 virtualisation servers
- 1 NEC R120 management server
- 1 NEC Storage D3-10 storage array
- VMware ESX (since upgraded to Vsphere)
- 1 NEC R120 backup server
- 1 NEC T16a-2 backup library
- 1 NEC D1-10 storage array

TESTIMONIES

"We also value NEC for the stability and robustness of its equipment."

Pascal Goyffon - Head of IT

DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN

Things that could not be conceived of in the time of the AS400, for reasons of technical complexity, have since become reality with the introduction of virtualisation.

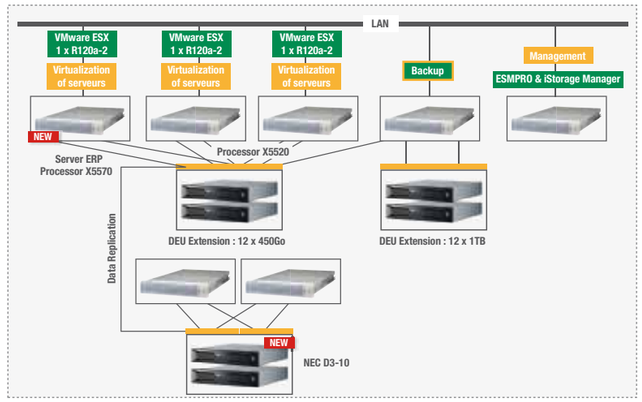
In order to ensure complete compatibility with the existing infrastructure, Spirax Sarco wanted to use a solution based on the same virtualisation technology, i.e. VMware.

In order to meet the requirements specified by **Spirax Sarco France**, and after some hard thinking, NEC came up with a response that fitted perfectly into its customer's environment.

The NEC R120 virtualisation servers on the central site have been moved to the backup site and replaced by more powerful NEC R120 servers with more recent processors. The storage capacities have been increased with the addition of DEUs (Disk Expansion Units) to existing arrays.

Ultimately, the DRP was based on NEC R120 servers and a D3-10 storage array implemented at the backup site. The RDR (Remote Data Replication) module between the two storage units has been activated. In the event of a disaster, a failover is implemented manually.

The consolidated architecture



Details of the solution provided

Main site:

- 1 NEC R120 virtualisation server to host the ERP

Backup site:

- 2 NEC R120 virtualisation servers
- 1 NEC Storage D3-10 storage array and a DEU
- VMware ESX (since upgraded to Vsphere)

TESTIMONIES

"The solutions implemented are exactly what the IT service expected from NEC. It is a reliable, high-performance system."

Laurent Buil - Systems and Networks Administrator