iTernity

BERNER Group

Ideal solution for email archiving
Berner Group combines Veritas Enterprise Vault with iCAS

■ Industry:

Wholesale construction industry, mobility industry and industrial sector

■ Background:

The company required an audit-proof e-mail archiving solution seamlessly integrated with Veritas Enterprise Vault.

■ Challenge:

In addition to reducing the Exchange database system load, the data protection officer and internal audit department required archived e-mails to fulfill audit criteria. Furthermore, the solution had to be fully operable on virtual servers.

■ Solution:

iTernity Compliant Archive Software (iCAS) with Veritas Enterprise Vault

„Based on our many years of experience with iCAS, I would choose this solution again at any time, and I can fully recommend iCAS."

Michael Rudnik, IT system administrator at the Berner Group

The success at a glance:

■ Perfect integration into the virtual system environment

■ Reduced system load of the mail server databases

■ Easy integration with Veritas Enterprise Vault

■ Increased cost effectiveness and flexibility

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The Berner Group

The family-run trading company traces its origins to Albert Berner Deutschland GmbH and has its headquarters in Künzelsau, Germany. Berner Group is the central B2B trading partner for all maintenance, repair and production materials for customers in the construction, mobility and industrial sectors. The group is an innovative manufacturer of steel, C-parts and specialist chemicals.

The group is represented internationally in 25 countries and offers more than 230,000 items. With around 9,000 employees, the European trading company provides field and customer services and is focused on expanding its excellent online services.

IT operations for all group entities are based in the Künzelsau HQ. *"We run the archiving for the connected Exchange systems of the entire group, which currently includes about 4,400 mailboxes"*, says Michael Rudnik, IT system administrator at the Berner Group.

Solution requirements

While the Exchange databases were at their capacity limit, both the data protection officer and internal audit department required all emails to be retained, audit-proof. The IT department began to search for a solution that met their needs. In the selection phase, the Berner Group worked with a specialized solution partner who brought in his experience.

„For reasons of legal compliance, it had to be ensured that data was archived long-term and audit-proof. Quickly, we focused on the software solution Veritas Enterprise Vault because the combination with a Windows storage system and the iCAS solution has provided us with a satisfactory overall solution", Michael Rudnik explains.

Simultaneous implementation of the double solution

At the time of the introduction of iCAS in 2011, a complete reinstallation of Enterprise Vault in combination with iCAS was carried out. *"That made it quite easy for us at the time because no migration of existing data was necessary"*, explains Rudnik. Within the

Berner Group, various IT solutions are independently defined. *"Each internal process has created its own standard, which is obvious in an organization like the Berner Group, where each division determines the best solutions for their unique processes"*, says Rudnik.

iCAS on virtual servers

The ability to run iCAS fully virtualized was a major benefit for the IT system administrator because the degree of virtualization at the Berner Group is at a very high level. *"We are in a position where 99.9% is virtualized and we want to bring it to fully 100% in the future"*, explains Rudnik.

The goal of the IT department is to provide the virtualized platform in a standardized manner for the entire group of companies. There are internal standards and VM-images, which are adjusted to the respective requirements and then are used by the other companies as needed.

"In order to provide the entire infrastructure in a consistent manner, we had to assemble, configure, upgrade and convert a lot", adds Michael Rudnik. The iCAS system also runs on a standard VM-image. As a storage

solution, iCAS can be combined with any memory hardware, which allows a high level of flexibility.

Benefits of iCAS

In addition to virtualization, the iCAS system offers other major advantages for the Berner Group. *"The scalability of the solution played a key role in our decision. Both archive size and overall system performance can be easily and dynamically adapted as needed. Since the introduction of iCAS, we require significantly less storage volume for the Exchange databases, which makes it much more scalable and efficient",* explains Rudnik.

"The iCAS SelfHealing feature is also a key advantage of the system because we don't need to separately monitor data integrity", Rudnik continues. The archive data is first written synchronously to two separate storage systems, located at two separate data center sections at Berner Group.

The iCAS system then checks replicated data for integrity and readability. If an archive object on a storage system is damaged, e.g., due to a hardware failure, iCAS detects the error and automatically replaces the corrupted object with a valid and verified copy. These steps are performed in the background, logged and reported to the administrator.

Experience and satisfaction with iCAS

Michael Rudnik was not familiar with the iCAS system at the time of the introduction, but quickly felt comfortable with it. *"It was a logical construct for me and also the structure, the usability and the creation of new repositories are very simple in their handling. I have rarely had such a user-friendly system that caused so little difficulties".*

Occasional adjustments of the archive structure, such as the creation of additional repositories, is carried out independently by the IT department of the company. *"We have grown to a database of 9TB within the last years, so one or the other archive or repository had to be added. Regarding iTernity support, we have received excellent response times and top quality support for the few requests we've had. Based on our many years of experience with iCAS, I would choose this solution again at any time, and I can fully recommend iCAS",* concludes Rudnik.

Michael Rudnik, IT system administrator at the Berner Group

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Future-Proof Solution for Data Integrity and Long-Term Archiving

Companies of all sectors with the most diverse demands on secure data storage rely on the software solution iCAS. All well-known ECM, ERP, DMS, PACS and e-mail systems are certified for iCAS and can be easily connected with it. iCAS helps you meet legal and internal compliance requirements, thereby minimizes your business risks significantly. As a hardware-independent solution, iCAS protects the integrity and security of your data in the long term - flexible, future-proof and cost-efficient!

Business Applications/Data
ECM, ERP, PACS, E-Mail, Voice, Video, Customer Specific, etc.

iCAS Data Management and Protection
Encryption, Integrity Monitoring, Self-Healing, Retention, WORM

Storage Infrastructure
Onsite-, Cloud-, Object-Storage

A Central Platform for Your Data Management

The software solution iCAS acts as a central management layer between your applications and the storage infrastructure. iCAS ensures data integrity and availability over long periods of time regardless of the hardware used. Thus, you can change your storage technologies and applications over time, nevertheless your stored data remains consistent and secure. Data migrations can be conducted by iCAS in the background without burdening the productive systems.

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