

Case Study

UK Backup Cloud Based Data Protection Solution, powered by Asigra Makes It Easy to Switch from Tape to Cloud



- Non-profit social justice organization based in UK
- Looking for cloud service provider to protect over 5TB of data in 12 offices with approximately 900 employees across the UK
- Mixed I.T. environment required a flexible data management solution to accommodate the changing needs of the business



UK Backup

SUMMARY

Nacro is a national social justice charity with more than 50 years' experience of changing lives, building stronger communities and reducing crime. Nacro houses, educates, supports, advises, and speaks out for and with disadvantaged young people and adults.

With approximately 900 employees and 100 locations spread over the UK (with main offices located in London and Birmingham), they were looking for a scalable solution to support five terabytes of data within a mixed IT environment across the whole estate. Nacro began to question if tape capabilities were able to meet their needs for data retention, recovery and compliance mandates. Struggling with tape inefficiencies (e.g. scalability, manual recovery and management) in the past, coupled with exponential growth within their organization proved that they were outgrowing the capacity of their legacy tape technology. Nacro needed a solution that was able to scale to their business needs, leading them to choose managed service provider [UK Backup](#) to deploy the Asigra Cloud Backup™ solution.

BACKGROUND

As a social justice charity, Nacro is committed to changing lives, building stronger communities, and reducing crime. With several different service offerings in the housing, education, justice, mental health sector, coupled with exponential data growth, the consensus at Nacro was that there was a need to improve on their existing backup system. Their legacy tape solution was unreliable and costly, and Nacro was in need of a cost efficient and automated method of moving data offsite.

They worked within a mixed IT environment, which posed four main problems:

1. Many existing technologies, configurations and practices Nacro had in place for securing their physical servers couldn't be applied to their virtual servers in the same way.
2. Working within a mixed IT environment meant their IT administrators didn't always have the tools to support mixed IT environments. Traditional network security tools can't always manage the traffic on the virtual machines, nor are they designed to adapt with integrated systems, making it more difficult to monitor if a security breach was to occur.

CHALLENGES

- Securing a reliable infrastructure and data availability for a mixed IT environment
- Growing business, and changing demands meant data volumes were growing exponentially making their legacy tape solution inadequate for their business needs
- Switching existing tape backup solution to an up to date system that was scalable to support their data storage needs

ASIGRA CLOUD-BASED DATA RECOVERY DELIVERS

- Single integrated solution for all data protection needs
- Policy-based protection based on the user's IT environment and recovery requirements
- Optimization of IT resources for enhanced utilization
- Data encryption that secures data in-flight and at-rest with full support of compliance requirements
- High-performance data recovery

“Our choice for Asigra was based on the referrals, internet research, market knowledge of the backup solutions available and first hand experience of the software.”

Dave Homer, ICT Project Manager

3. Tape backups are often expensive, out of date and can be lost or stolen when being transported off-site.
4. Recovering data from a tape system can be a slow process, especially if a tape needs to be retrieved from an off-site vault. Not to mention there is no guarantee that data is actually ever backed up.

Facing these roadblocks with their tape backup solution meant Nacro needed a scalable solution to support all their disk storage pools and network accesses shared across multiple networks and devices

BUSINESS SITUATION

Business continuity, complying with regulations and growing IT infrastructure costs has many organizations' rethinking their priorities. IT professionals currently face the challenge of securing a backup and recovery solution that has an equal mix of performance, security, functionality and price to mitigate the risk of data breaches or office closures after a data loss (e.g. data loss, malware attack, accidentally deleted email, etc.). Since Nacro's tape backup offering was no longer adequate, it became increasingly clear that their backup and recovery needs had surpassed the usage of their legacy tape solution.

“Our old solution was at its end of life and out of support. Our desire was to move to a more up-to-date system that was reliable, minimized restoration times, kept our data secure as well as being scalable. Asigra was the obvious choice. We wanted a cloud service provider who could reduce the amount of hardware installed within the racks of our data centre.”

Dave Homer, ICT Project Manager

SOLUTION

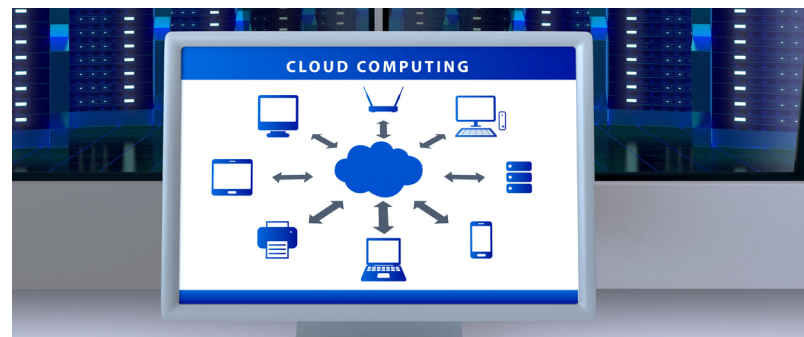
After carefully evaluating several solution providers, Asigra Cloud Backup proved to be the most comprehensive solution to meet the needs of Nacro. Being pleased with Asigra's track record of excellent service and support, this gave Nacro

the peace of mind that Asigra's comprehensive solution would meet their required needs. They identified the four business benefits of choosing Asigra as:

1. **Automated Backup and Recovery:** Once Nacro's IT administrators selected a backup schedule, this increased the efficiency of the organization by dramatically reducing operational and administrative management as well as eliminating time-consuming and expensive processes related to tape management.
2. **Smarter Use of IT Resources:** Some of Nacro's legacy network security tools didn't manage the traffic adequately on their VMs. Asigra's Cloud Backup solution integrated with their existing IT environments, allowing for greater flexibility for offsite incorporation.
3. **Increased Security:** Asigra's NIST FIPS 140-2 validation gave Nacro peace of mind that their data is secure in-flight and at-rest by offering a backup solution with more reliability and redundancy than tape backup.
4. **Improved Data Recovery Performance:** This went from days to hours since the upgrade from their tape offering.

RESULTS

The Asigra solution enabled Nacro to remove the legacy LTO tape hardware. The ease of scale and cost-effective storage supported the growing volume of data to match their mixed IT environment. Not only were their recovery point and time objectives met, the security of sensitive customer data was in safe hands, combined with a military standard level of encryption to ensure that offsite copies of data are never stored in a readable format. The easy to use interface reduced the workload of the IT administrators which allowed administrators to focus their efforts on critical IT initiatives but also freed up the support desk staff to serve their end-customers better.



About UK Backup

UK Backup Limited are UK based providers of enterprise grade Cloud Backup and Disaster Recovery services. By utilizing a market leading technology, UK Backup has quickly established itself as one of the UK's leading Backup and Disaster Recovery providers. Established in 2010, UK Backup protects companies of all sectors and sizes, from public sector clients and enterprises through to SMEs.

More information on UK Backup can be found at www.ukbackup.com.

About Nacro

Nacro is a national social justice charity with more than 50 years' experience of changing lives, building stronger communities and reducing crime. They house, educate, support, advise and speak out for and with disadvantaged young people and adults. They are passionate about changing lives. They never give up.

More information on Nacro can be found at www.nacro.org.uk.

About Asigra

Trusted since 1986, Asigra provides organizations around the world the ability to recover their data now from anywhere through a global network of partners who deliver cloud backup and recovery services as public, private and/or hybrid deployments. As the industry's first enterprise-class agentless cloud-based recovery software to provide data backup and recovery of servers, virtual machines, endpoint devices, databases and applications, SaaS and IaaS based applications, Asigra lowers the total cost of ownership, reduces recovery time objectives, eliminates silos of backup data by providing a single consolidated repository, and provides 100% recovery assurance. Asigra's revolutionary Recovery License Model™ provides organizations with a cost-effective data recovery business model unlike any other offered in the storage market. In 2015, Asigra Cloud Backup was named the **Top Enterprise Backup Solution** and achieved silver in Storage Magazine's **Products of the Year**.

More information on Asigra can be found at www.asigra.com

