



# ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

## A new Generation of Data Protection Architecture

We have a duty to our clients and our business to protect the data we hold. In the event of a disaster it is imperative that we can restore our business to an operating status, in a suitable time, to continue providing services. In old paper based offices a disaster such as flood or fire would more than likely lead to the closure of the business. Modern offices based on digital data allow information to be backed up and protected so that you can start working again in a very short time.

Technology for backing up our computer data has matured over the past few years but is about to undergo a drastic set of changes. There are many reasons for this and here are some of the most important:

- Added system complexity partially due to the adoption of virtualisation of servers.
- Increasing requirement for compliance.
- Increasing requirement to show that data is being maintained in a responsible, secure manner.
- The exponential growth in both structured and unstructured data.
- The lack of predictability for data and system recovery.
- Strained resources in terms of systems, people and funding.
- Lack of measurement and control of key recovery metrics such as Recovery Point Objective (RPO) and Recovery Time Objective (RTO).

Clients want to know that they can recover data in the event of a disaster and recover it quickly so that they can keep on working

## The Data Protection Market

Massive increases in data volumes and technology advances such as virtualisation means that current architectures are wanting in a number of areas and essentially perpetuate data protection islands. Knowing the point you can recover to and in what time (RPO and RTO) have become synonymous with business availability. They allow the process of recovery to be managed and measured.

## Requirements for the next Generation

The next generation of data protection products cannot compromise when it comes to features, completeness is essential. What this means is a solution that combines all the core technologies of data protection and recovery, image backup, file-level backup, advanced scheduling, physical, virtual, tape, replication, high availability, deduplication, etc. It's a long list, and one that only a few vendors can successfully handle.

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Another way to look at this is that every organisation should be able to benefit from the best levels of protection and recoverability, something that until recent innovations was only reserved to the largest enterprises. Innovation is about offering what was limited to the few to a broader audience, and that's exactly what next generation architectures need to do, innovate by delivering enterprise-level features at a fraction of the cost, and with ease of use.

The use of a specific technology like backup or replication is a "conclusion", not a starting point. What matters is to map the data/system protection or recovery level to the business need. Reverse engineering requirements to match a technology is a sure way to miss the mark. A modern solution lets customers or service providers easily create plans on the basis of their RPO and RTO, as simply as if they were using a dial. Let the right technology kick in based on requirements

## Virtualisation - a double edged sword

Virtual environments have become prevalent in many organisations and offer great capabilities that can be used by a data recovery solution. In addition, supporting multiple hypervisors and delivering advanced data protection, migration and recovery capabilities in a heterogeneous fashion is critical. In a modern unified data protection solution, support for virtualisation has to be built-in from inception, while at the same time still providing flawless support for physical servers.

## Local Implementation

The sophisticated level of data security, back-up and recovery solutions delivered by these new architecture solutions has not been available to typical small and medium sized businesses in Guernsey until recently.

We are now working with this latest technology to increase the levels of data security for our clients. We can also provide more realistic testing of disaster recovery plans so that in the unlikely event of a critical event, clients can be confident that systems will be restored to the agreed point within the agreed time.

## About the author

Neil Jordan was worked in the IT industry for more than 25 years, both locally in the Islands, the UK and other jurisdictions worldwide. He has extensive experience working with both small and large organisations in the finance industry and other markets. As well as providing general IT advice to our clients, Neil has the ability to understand business requirements and source the best possible products to meet those requirements. Neil can be contacted on 01481 701234, 07781 110688 or by email [neil@asl.gg](mailto:neil@asl.gg)

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