



CASE STUDY: Pacific Rim Engineered Products

KEY FACTS



Industry:

Engineering

Location:

Canada

Number of Employees:

51-100

Contact:

Simon Wei, IT Manager

PREP provides engineered solutions for critical applications across a range of industries including gas compression, land and offshore oil drilling, industrial refrigeration, materials handling, and various marine applications from its operating facility in Vancouver, British Columbia. In addition to the standard office software, the business also runs several specialist engineering applications.

THE CHALLENGE

In 2013, PREP's IT Manager, Simon Wei, launched a project to virtualize all the company's servers in order to improve asset utilization and optimize the business's existing IT infrastructure. PREP was already using an industry-leading solution to manage backups. However, the virtualization project exposed some limitations to the existing solution, as Simon explains:

"Our existing software was OK as a file backup solution but it was not effective as a VM backup solution. It was hit or miss when restoring and converting the backup VMs to a different host. In addition, there was room for improvement in terms of storage on the backup device – I had to manually delete older backup files in order to free up space."

THE SOLUTION

Simon researched the market to find a solution that was better suited to a virtualized environment and shortlisted two suppliers.

“Of the two shortlisted solutions I tested, Altaro offered several advantages. It did everything I needed it to and at a much more reasonable price.”

Altaro VM Backup is an easy-to-use, fast and reliable backup solution designed to take the hassle out of backing up Microsoft Hyper-V virtual machines.

For PREP it was an ideal solution because:

- It was a huge improvement on PREP’s existing backup solution
- It simplified backups of PREP’s Hyper-V ecosystem
- It was a smaller installation and did not require SQL or dedicated Windows machines, unlike the other VM backup solution Simon looked at
- It is easy to use and had a much more intuitive GUI than the other VM backup solution Simon assessed.

THE BENEFITS

Because of the advantages it offered, PREP quickly switched to Altaro VM Backup in 2013. Simon says it has made the backup process much easier:

“One of the servers we use Altaro to backup is our Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) software, a common solution for engineering companies. Altaro has no problem backing up this software which is quite something since backing up and restoring it separately without Altaro is tedious and time consuming.”

There has also been an improvement in the storage required for backups, which is now kept to a minimum thanks to Altaro VM Backup’s differential backup.

“Altaro has never failed me once when it comes to restore. File level restore is easy to use and the offsite backup works great. Overall my experience with Altaro has been entirely positive. The support is great: quick and helpful. And the price is extremely reasonable. I am confident using Altaro; I know I can count on it.”

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