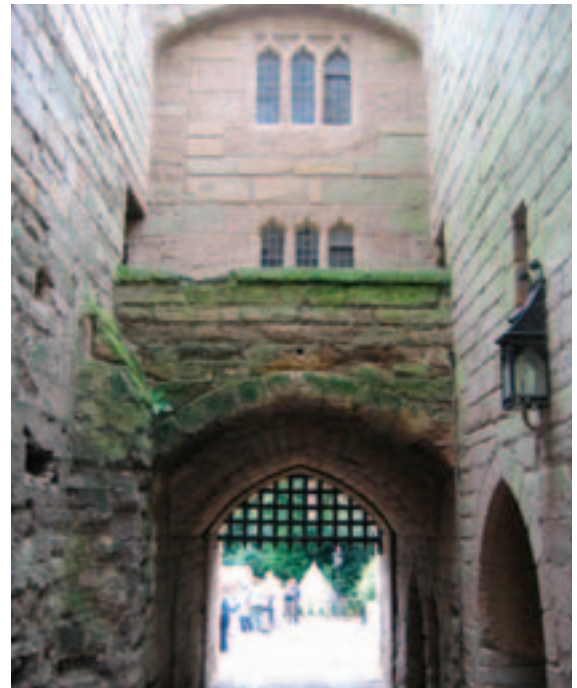


# Disaster Recovery SAN and Back-Up Solution



“Warwick District Council were vulnerable to complete loss of mission critical data due to computer room flooding. OCSL reduced that risk by 100% via the design and implementation of an HP-based level three data replication solution.”

Ian Mobberley, Technical Architect,  
Warwick District Council.



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### **OCSL moves Warwick Council's data to a place of safety**

Serving a population of some 124,000 residents, Warwick District Council covers 28,253 hectares and like many other local authorities it came into existence in 1974 with the re-organisation of local government.

Where Warwick stands out from many other authorities, however, is that it has been rated as one of the top five councils in the country for the way it delivers services to the community and its forward thinking IT policies have a lot to do with that.

Effective disaster recovery (DR) and business continuity solutions are a key element and Warwick has recently revamped its whole DR set-up with the help of OCSL, who also collaborated on the design and implementation of the new HP systems.

#### **Flood threat**

As well as its overall policy of using effective IT to increase efficiency, Warwick had two more specific drivers that prompted the recent work. Firstly, Warwick falls into the category of local authorities that were legally required to deliver their business continuity and DR plans to central government by Q4, 2005.

The second reason was much closer to home – in fact just about 100 yards away from its headquarters in Royal Leamington Spa! The aptly named Riverside House stands close to the River Leam which is prone to flooding. On more than one occasion it has flowed into the council's car park and there was a real danger that if it flooded the state-of-the-art datacentre on the ground floor, the council's business would grind to a halt.

Two Storage Area Networks (SAN) on the ground floor held the whole of the council's data: from scanned images in its extensive document management system; to corporate data, photographs and printwork. There was an urgent need to move one of those SANs, either off site or to a higher floor in the building, away from the flood level.

"That data is of critical importance to the organisation and the challenge was how we could deliver the technology that would provide us with a level of business continuity and disaster recovery," said Ian Mobberley, Technical Architect, Warwick District Council. "We needed our data in two areas. We wanted it concurrent so it is always synchronised and we also wanted to be able to do some off-line back-ups because our back-up windows were essentially saturated."

#### **Financial benefits**

As is the case with all local authorities, funding was of critical importance.

"We handed OCSL a pretty difficult challenge with regards to the budget, but they and HP delivered on it, which was very impressive. Another big plus point for us was that OCSL works as a Catalyst Subcontractor which meant we did not have to become involved in EU tendering."

The retail cost of this project was over £300,000 which falls within EU tendering legislation but working with OCSL meant that we were able to buy through the Catalyst, so we didn't need to go out to full EU tender."

Having always used HP equipment, Warwick had two HP Enterprise Virtual Arrays, an EVA 3000 and EVA 5000, which are enterprise class, high performance, high capacity and high availability virtual RAID storage solutions that remove the time, space and cost boundaries of traditional storage. These were situated on the ground floor and an HP Modular Smart Array (MSA) 1000 was on the third floor.

### Clone plan

Working with OCSL, the solution was to re-deploy the MSA into a document management test environment then move the HP EVA 3000 to the safety of the third floor, creating a clone with data replicated between both EVAs, with an initial capacity of 8Tb.

OCSL was also involved in the intensive exercise of migrating data from one EVA to another. With the exception of the document management system, all the council's various data, from databases to file serving, sat on the EVA 3000 with 15 host servers looking at that data.

This all had to be migrated to the EVA 5000, then the EVA 3000 had to be stripped down and repopulated with a different disc format before real-time replication could take place.

Working with OCSL achieved further cost savings for Warwick by replacing its Veritas back-up with HP OpenView Storage DataProtector software that manages back-up and recovery from both disks and tapes, delivering maximum data protection while providing continuous 24x7 business operations.

Part of the new solution is the HP StorageWorks Enterprise Modular Library (EML) E-Series tape library which provides performance, reliability and investment protection for

Warwick's protection needs. With up to 16 HP StorageWorks Ultrium tape drives, the EML E-Series boasts native throughput of over 4.6 TB/hr. Based on the HP StorageWorks Extended Tape Library Architecture (ETLA), controllers between the SAN and the tape drives regulate traffic and help to ensure that rogue I/O requests do not interrupt the backup or recovery job in progress. Additionally, the hardware itself is very reliable, designed for 24x7 environments.

"Having been a Veritas site for four years, we found that the costs were quite high. Although Veritas is good, it's expensive," said Mobberley. "Putting in HP DataProtector will produce huge cost savings. We will get return on our investment in that piece of software over a period of about two and a half years. We would never get that sort of return on the Veritas software.

"From an IT perspective, the new solution delivers a more streamlined day-to-day back-up infrastructure with a bigger back-up window. We can stagger this process by backing up off-line rather than on-line copy. We are also putting in new tape libraries that use the latest HP technology and are much quicker than our previous system. These changes allow for the back-up to be done and restored more quickly. And, that is extremely important to our 600 users.

"Even before we could place an order, it took some nine months of planning and OCSL were patient, informative and helpful throughout the whole project. We were impressed with the level of knowledge of all the OCSL staff and have built an excellent relationship with the company."



## Why partner with OCSL

OCSL has been assisting organisations to maximise their IT investment for over 15 years. Our world-class partnerships with organisations like HP, Cisco and Oracle means that we have the knowledge to look at your IT estate with fresh but experienced eyes.

Our specialist areas include server consolidation, SAN deployments, creating integrated backup strategies and tailored support contracts. So you can rest assured that you are in safe hands.

## Installed and supported by the infrastructure experts

You can feel reassured that partnering with OCSL brings you immediate expertise and on-going support. OCSL are a highly accredited HP partner and one of just a handful of ASMP (Authorised Service Management Partners), for HP. This means that backed by HP, OCSL can tailor an exact support solution to meet your needs from 4 hour on site response to ship to site for disaster scenarios.

## What to do next

We'd welcome the opportunity to be benchmarked against your current suppliers because we know OCSL can offer you smarter alternatives – that's why our customers include well-known organisations like Sanofi Aventis, Allianz Cornhill and Williams F1.

**Simply contact the team on 0845 6052100, email [info@ocsl.co.uk](mailto:info@ocsl.co.uk) or visit the web site at [www.ocsl.co.uk](http://www.ocsl.co.uk)**



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**Organised Computer Systems Ltd**

OCSL, East House, New Pound Common, Wisborough Green, West Sussex RH14 0AZ  
[www.ocsl.co.uk](http://www.ocsl.co.uk) Tel: 0845 6052100 Fax: 0845 6052102 Email: [info@ocsl.co.uk](mailto:info@ocsl.co.uk)