arcserve®

> ## Celsa Steel Service safeguards production continuity with Arcserve UDP

CLIENT PROFILE

Industry: Steel manufacturing
Companies: Celsa Steel Service AB, Celsa Steel Service A/S
Combined mployees: 280

BUSINESS

Celsa Steel Service AB and Celsa Steel Service A/S are the Swedish and Danish branches of the Celsa Group. They manufacture and sell steel reinforcement products for concrete.

CHALLENGE

The companies must ensure that production and administrative information is readily available and protected to safeguard the continuity of their businesses. The existing data protection solutions were no longer adequate.

SOLUTION

Celsa Steel Service AB and A/S have adopted Arcserve UDP and gradually deployed a comprehensive data protection solution, taking advantage of data deduplication and the Arcserve UDP Virtual Standby feature.

BENEFIT

By implementing Arcserve UDP, the companies have been able to meet budget requirements and avoid increasing their IT workload, while safeguarding data to prevent disruption to production.

∧ssured recovery™

BUSINESS

Quality steel products for the Swedish and Danish construction industry

Celsa Steel Service AB and Celsa Steel Service A/S are the Swedish and Danish companies, within Celsa Steel Service, a group of Nordic enterprises that manufactures and sells steel reinforcement products for concrete. The group is one of the largest players in this industry in the Nordic region. It also includes companies in Norway and Finland, and is part of the wider Celsa Group.

The range of steel products manufactured by Celsa Steel Service AB and Celsa Steel Service A/S includes electro-welded mesh and C&B (cut and bent) rebar. Embedding steel rebar in concrete is essential to provide tensile strength to this construction material. The two companies also provide a range of services, such as products for prefabrication of reinforcement solutions, and supplies for reinforcement.

Celsa Steel Service AB operates three production sites and four sales offices in Sweden, while Celsa Steel Service A/S has one single site in Denmark carrying out both production and sales.

The two companies became part of Celsa Group in 2006 through acquisition. Headquartered in Spain, Celsa Group is the fourth largest steel producer in Europe, with more than 7,500 employees worldwide. As well as Spain and the Nordic region, Celsa Group operates sites in France, Poland, and the UK.

CHALLENGE

Safeguarding production continuity while ensuring IT efficiency

At Celsa Steel Service AB and A/S, manufacturing high quality steel products for the construction industry is a fully automated process carried out with state-of-the-art machinery. "Our manufacturing equipment is computer-controlled, so our IT systems must always be up and running to ensure production continuity. Any loss of data or server fault would immediately result in disruption to our production process. Our sales and administrative offices could be impacted as well," says Joakim Stehn, IT Manager of Celsa Steel Service for Sweden and Denmark.

To support its business, the two companies have built an IT infrastructure for local IT systems based on a single datacenter at the Swedish headquarters, which serves all sites.

Data backup has always been a priority at Celsa Steel Service. Before being acquired by the Celsa Group, the Swedish company adopted a simple backup solution based on Arcserve. But following the acquisition in 2006, Celsa Steel Service AB found itself with two different backup systems. As Stehn recalls: "In addition to our existing Arcserve solution, a second backup system was added for some centralised IT services, such as email, for the Nordic countries."

The overall setup was not ideal. "Managing two different backup solutions, each with its own tapes, added complexity. Our IT department supports the entire IT infrastructure in two countries, so we can't afford to spend a lot of time managing the backup process. Also, the backup system we used for email and other centralised services was very inefficient. Restoring a single lost message required the recovery of a whole database and a manual search, which could take up to two days," explains Stehn.

The opportunity for renovation arrived in 2009, when Celsa Steel Service AB's datacenter was migrated to a virtual environment, where email and the other centralised IT services also converged.

"We needed a new, unified and efficient data protection tool that would meet our requirements," Stehn comments. "It had to be scalable to give us the option of adding a disaster recovery solution at a later date. It also had to be easy to use to enable more comprehensive data protection without increasing the workload on our IT department. Additionally, it was also important that the solution could effectively and quickly back up some of our physical servers even with the limited bandwidth of our WAN, which is just two megabytes per second."

SOLUTION

Leveraging scalability, data deduplication and incremental backup with Arcserve UDP

Celsa Steel Service AB set out to look for a new solution by comparing several backup and disaster recovery tools available on the market. "We decided that the best fit for our needs was to upgrade our existing Arcserve solution to Arcserve UDP," Stehn recalls.

Thanks to its IT partner Advania, Celsa Steel Service AB knew that Arcserve had a roadmap for adding new capabilities to Arcserve UDP which would enable it to implement disaster recovery using the Virtual Standby feature. The solution also allows for the addition of a backup library at a later time. Advania was on hand throughout the implementation to de-risk the project.

"We were already familiar with the solution and we knew it was easy to use," adds Stehn. "In addition to that, some of the features offered by Arcserve UDP such as data deduplication, data compression and incremental backup dramatically reduce the volume of data that needs to be transferred during the backup process. This is really useful when there's a limited bandwidth. The final deciding factor was that Arcserve UDP provided good value for money."

The implementation of Arcserve UDP took place in 2013. Since then, Celsa Steel Service AB has expanded its data protection solution to take advantage of the tool's many features.

"We have created a second datacenter for backup and disaster recovery," Stehn explains. "We have also added new pieces of equipment that are managed by Arcserve UDP: a backup library for handling tapes, some disc cabinets, and a server for Virtual Standby."

With Arcserve UDP, Celsa Steel Service AB and A/S have implemented a solution that backs up 1.5 terabytes of data across 35 virtual servers and five physical servers. The backup takes place every night for most of the devices, with some critical data being backed up twice a day – at night and at lunchtime.

The last 30 days of backed-up data are kept in the company's disc-based storage system, enabling fast recovery of single files, folders or servers. Older data is transferred to tapes, which in turn are moved to a safe in a different building on a monthly basis. The Arcserve UDP's Virtual Standby function is used for disaster recovery on the 26 most critical virtual servers. The Virtual Standby clone is updated to the latest version at every backup, once or twice per day.

BENEFIT

Simplified management frees up IT resources

Arcserve UDP has enabled Celsa Steel Service AB and A/S to implement a comprehensive backup and disaster recovery solution that meets all requirements. "We have gradually grown our solution, adding new elements when appropriate, and overcoming some specific constraints without the need to modify our IT infrastructure. The solution is very quick and easy to manage, so we have been able to dramatically improve data protection without placing any additional burden on our IT resources," says Stehn.

"What's more," he adds. "We now have a very efficient data protection solution in place: if there's a major fault at our datacenter resuming production only takes a couple of hours, and the time for restoring a lost email has fallen from two days to just five minutes."

By implementing Arcserve UDP, Celsa Steel Service AB and A/S have been able to:

- Safeguard the continuity of their production and sales activities
- Optimise IT resources
- Reduce risks
- Decrease backup windows.

Celsa Steel Service AB and A/S are now planning to maintain the current solution by updating software and hardware as required. "Arcserve UDP is very flexible, and we are confident that it will adapt to our future data protection needs. Thanks to a recent Arcserve bootcamp we attended, we can now manage most of the features of the tool by ourselves," Stehn concludes.

arcserve® | www.arcserve.com