Avnet protects business intelligence with Veeam and Azure Blob

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— Mark Wysolmierski,
Senior Manager of Systems Administration,
Avnet

The business challenges

Avnet guides today's ideas into tomorrow's technology. The company helps customers reach further no matter where they are in the product lifecycle— from mapping an idea on paper to moving a product into mass production.

For nearly 100 years, Avnet has adapted to wave after wave of technological change by expanding its capabilities and creating an ecosystem that supports entrepreneurs and startups of every size and in every part of the world. The company's engineers are on the front lines of innovation, and they're supported by experts in design, manufacturing, marketing, supply chain, distribution and sales. Avnet's business intelligence is extensive and deep.

"Our challenge was protecting the IT systems supporting business intelligence," said Mark Wysolmierski, Senior Manager of Systems Administration at Avnet. "We were using Veritas Backup Exec to back up to tape—a process that was time-consuming, decentralized and didn't align with the company's cloud initiative. It was difficult to meet service level agreements (SLAs) with the business."

Avnet's SLAs require two weeks of backups on-premises and in the cloud to facilitate disaster recovery and comply with regulatory requirements such as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (SOX) and the Controlled Unclassified Information Program (CUI). The company considered two replacements for Backup Exec: Dell EMC Data Domain and Veeam® Availability Suite™.

"Data Domain was significantly more expensive, yet it didn't offer the simplicity, flexibility and portability Veeam offers," Wysolmierski said. "As it turns out, Veeam portability helped us protect the business and our data during a situation that no one could have anticipated."

Industry

Technology

Company

Avnet is a global electronic components distributor with extensive design, product, marketing and supply chain expertise for customers and suppliers at every stage of the product lifecycle. For nearly a century, the company has helped people realize the transformative possibilities of technology. Founded in 1921 and headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, Avnet employs 15,500 people in 125 offices across North America, Europe and Asia.

The Veeam solution

Avnet replaced Veritas with Veeam to protect business intelligence and align with the company's cloud initiative.

Veeam simplifies and centralizes data protection by simultaneously backing up 50 TB across 180 virtual and physical servers to NetApp Storage on-premises and to Azure Blob. The IT team meets SLAs, complies with regulatory requirements including SOX and CUI and saves $200,000 each year in backup licensing costs. Veeam also migrates critical workloads quickly and seamlessly, enabling the team to move on-premises workloads to Azure Blob fast during political unrest in Hong Kong.

"Our Hong Kong office is close to where people were protesting, so our executive board was concerned about employees' safety and the safety of our data," Wysolmierski said. "We were already using Veeam to back up to Azure Blob, so we used Veeam to migrate critical applications to Azure Blob as well. The applications are used daily by offices throughout the region, so migrating them to the cloud quickly, easily and effortlessly was a big win for Avnet."

Wysolmierski said Veeam also migrates workloads when Avnet acquires companies and when data centers are consolidated or decommissioned.

"Veeam migration is quick, easy and seamless—even over low bandwidth because of its built-in WAN Acceleration," he said. "Veeam is a business enabler in so many ways."

Wysolmierski provided another example of enablement: Microsoft named Avnet a strategic partner for Azure Sphere, a secure application platform providing communication and security features for internet-connected devices. Avnet was the first company to distribute a starter kit powered by Azure Sphere to help customers accelerate their internet of things (IoT) deployments.

"Veeam backs up the analytical data in this environment too," he said. "We're confident data is protected and can be recovered quickly and easily."

Recovery is vital to data protection, so Veeam DataLabs™ provide extensive functionality. SureBackup® and SureReplica verify the recoverability of backups and replicas, and Secure Restore scans data with antivirus software before restoring it. Staged Restore helps companies manage compliance by ensuring sensitive data is removed from backups before they're restored.

"We're audited several times a year for regulations ranging from SOX to CUI, and Veeam supports compliance each time," Wysolmierski said. "It's a multi-purpose solution that protects data so we can serve customers."

Avnet's customers are diverse, and so are their products. The Smart Sock, created by a company called Owlet, helps keep babies safe as they sleep by tracking their oxygen levels and heart rates. The sock has a built-in monitor that notifies parents if their babies' levels drop below preset safe zones. Avnet supported Owlet during the product design phase and Veeam backed up the design data.

Challenge

Avnet, a Fortune 500 company since 1994, has more than 2.1 million customers in 140 countries. No matter where customers are on their product journey, Avnet provides the business intelligence to get their products to market fast. Avnet's challenge was protecting the IT systems supporting business intelligence their locations throughout the Americas and Asia Pacific. Backup was time-consuming, decentralized and didn't align with the company's cloud initiative, making it difficult for the IT team to meet SLAs with the business.

Solution

Veeam Availability Suite

Results

- Meets SLAs by simultaneously backing up on-premises and to Azure Blob

- Migrates on-premises workloads to Azure Blob fast during Hong Kong protests

- Saves $200,000 annually in IT costs and supports compliance with SOX and CUI

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The results

- **Meets SLAs by simultaneously backing up on-premises and to Azure Blob**
  "Veeam aligns perfectly with Avnet's cloud initiative for data protection," Wysolmierski said. "It simplifies backup and centralizes backup management, making it easier to meet SLAs with the business."

- **Migrates on-premises workloads to Azure Blob fast during Hong Kong protests**
  "As a tool in Avnet's toolbox, Veeam is without a doubt the most flexible data protection solution our team has used," Wysolmierski said. "One of the best examples of flexibility was being able to migrate on-prem workloads in our Hong Kong office to the cloud quickly and seamlessly during a period of political unrest."

- **Saves $200,000 annually in IT costs and supports compliance with SOX and CUI**
  "Choosing Veeam was straightforward," Wysolmierski said. "It's the most affordable, flexible and portable solution we could find."

About Veeam Software

Veeam® is the leader in Backup solutions that deliver Cloud Data Management™. Veeam provides a single platform for modernizing backup, accelerating hybrid cloud, and securing data. With 375,000+ customers worldwide, including 82% of the Fortune 500 and 67% of the Global 2,000, Veeam customer-satisfaction scores are the highest in the industry at 3.5x the average. Veeam's 100-percent channel ecosystem includes global partners, as well as HPE, NetApp, Cisco and Lenovo as exclusive resellers. Veeam has offices in more than 30 countries. To learn more, visit https://www.veeam.com or follow Veeam on Twitter @veeam.

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