

Engineering IT effectiveness

Integrated data management solutions from HP power Technip's data management to the next level.



"We needed a centralised data storage and backup system to manage our data as well as to meet our current and future needs. HP's storage solutions work flawlessly with our existing systems, and have effectively streamlined our data backup and retrieval processes."

Mr. Somasundaram, IT Manager, Technip

HP customer case study: HP consolidates Technip's disparate storage server systems with HP OpenView Data Protector and the MSL 6030 Ultrium 460 based Tape Library.

Industry: Engineering and construction services

Objective

- To enable timely and efficient access and retrieval of Technip's growing business data.

Approach

- Installation of a consolidated backup and storage system with HP OpenView Storage Data Protector Software and the MSL 6030 Ultrium 460 based Tape Library for enhanced data backup, retrieval, and security.

Results

- A centralised storage system with greatly simplified data management.
- A robust, reliable, and secure framework with low Total Cost of Ownership.
- Enhanced ability to meet rapidly changing business needs.
- Flexible support for future IT expansion plans.

Synchronising data management with business growth

Founded in 1996, Technip is one of the top five players in full-service engineering, technologies, and construction services for oil and gas, petrochemical, and other related industries. The company specialises in offshore and onshore field development, gas processing and liquefaction, refining, and onshore pipelines. Its main business, however, involves petrochemicals – a lucrative area in which Technip has heavily invested top-of-the-line industrial assets over the years. Technip is also well known for its provision of cutting-edge services for basic and detail engineering, procurement, construction, and project management at competitive costs. With an impressive track record in implementing large turnkey contracts, today the company boasts revenues of 5.4 billion euros, and employs a workforce of over 21,000 people across five continents.

In recent years, Technip has enjoyed tremendous growth, contracting a variety of engineering projects throughout the world. These successes have in turn generated tremendous amounts of data related to engineering design – large influxes that threatened to overwhelm the company's existing data servers. The company therefore required a consolidated storage platform across its network to enable efficient backup, storage, and retrieval of this growing repository, thereby remaining lean and competitive. This would enable it to make use of its data to provide industry-leading service to its customers, and to further grow its business among existing clients.

As this was its first backup and storage consolidation project, Technip needed a reliable partner who would be responsible for the management and support of this critical undertaking. The partner had to ensure that the solution was reliable, secure, and cost effective. The solution also had to be centralised, scalable, and compatible with existing and future IT infrastructure to effectively address Technip's business needs.

Finding the right fit

Technip chose a combination of HP technology and the services of Tata Elxsi, a local HP partner, for their excellent technical fit to the company's requirements.

"We decided to adopt HP's suite of tools for their ease of use and suitability for data management. Indeed, the solutions are highly regarded for their reliability and price/performance ratio – two aspects that are of great importance to Technip. HP's overall evaluation of our needs and resultant positioning were also spot-on."

Mr. Somasundaram

HP deployed the HP OpenView Data Protector advanced data protection software and the MSL 6030 Ultrium 460 based Tape Library in Technip's SAN. HP also consolidated the company's Lotus Notes, Oracle, PDS, and file servers, and established online extensions for the Lotus Notes and Oracle servers to enable backups to be performed online. An additional five servers would be consolidated in the near future. These solutions were specially selected for their compatibility with legacy applications and programs, and this made for a particularly smooth-sailing deployment. In addition, a consolidated backup system was set up in the SAN infrastructure to provide much needed redundancy. The network infrastructure was set up on servers running Windows 2000, Windows 2003 and RH Linux 2.1 operating systems, and on Oracle and Lotus Notes databases.

As part of its extensive user support policy, HP made sure that the new solution was a tight fit with Technip's range of applications and servers. IT staff were briefed on the hardware and software changes, and additional training was provided for server upkeep and maintenance.

"It was a major process of restructuring for us, and we initially encountered some teething problems getting the Lotus Notes server into the new backup domain. They've since been resolved very well, however, and operations are up and running admirably."

Mr. Somasundaram

Powering Technip into the future

The project took a scant six weeks from start into finish, and since then Technip has been reaping the rewards of an optimised data management framework. Where previously the company relied on standalone systems for data backup and retrieval, inadvertently increasing both processing times and running costs, the new system now consolidates backup and storage activities within a fully integrated framework. As a result, backup and restoration windows have been satisfactorily reduced, allowing Technip to access, retain, and store data efficiently, cost-effectively, and with none of the hassle they previously experienced.

The HP OpenView Data Protector software has simplified complex backup and recovery procedures with its quick installation, automated routine tasks, and other advanced features. The centralised multi-site management feature in particular, which allows the easy implementation of multi-site changes, has been instrumental in empowering Technip's IT staff to rapidly adapt their IT environment to changing business climates. Projects are now executed quicker, and existing customers readily entrust Technip with the more complex aspects of their business. And thanks to the robust nature of Technip's consolidated storage and backup servers, the ever-growing amounts of data generated by these new successes can now be better managed.

"This was our first SAN and data backup consolidation exercise, and judging by the numbers so far, we're very pleased with the results. Our IT staff now perform the usual data management activities much faster than before. The online extensions that link the Lotus Notes and Oracle databases give us the option of performing automated backups anytime we need to as well without the hassle of scheduling specific backup windows. This saves us a lot of time and money."

Mr. Somasundaram

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