

British Bakels Case Study

British Baking Manufacturer's Storage Infrastructure Innovation

British Bakels is one of the leading suppliers of ingredients to the bakery market in the UK.

It manufactures ingredients and develops new baking concepts to help major artisan, retail and industrial bakers improve their products. British Bakels is a subsidiary of the global Bakels Group and employs over 220 staff across two production sites in Bicester, Oxfordshire.

The company was running on HPE storage which had worked well, but had reached end of life and had become too arduous and time-consuming to manage. Future capacity and resilience was key to the decision on what any new storage environment should look like, as well as ensuring that the cost would meet a strict budget as well as the requirements of the company's overall IT strategy.

Searching for a Solution

Network and Infrastructure Manager Mike Savage wanted to get an independent overview of what might be possible. As a result of their agnostic expertise in Tier 1 storage solutions and their close relationship with HPE, Cristie Data was brought in to provide specialist advice. Cristie Data is an HPE Hybrid IT Gold Partner and as a result was able to involve HPE directly in the discussions with Mike.

The team at Cristie Data ran a capacity planning exercise which analysed British Bakels' existing environment for performance, capacity and workload - it was important to understand how the existing storage system worked before deciding which product would meet the challenges the growing bakery business faced.

British Bakels has a mixed workload which includes file and print data, email, and Epicor ERP software. Its existing storage was based on VMware version 5.0 and ageing HPE hosts.

"Cristie Data put all the options to us," Mike Savage explains. "They ran a full capacity planning exercise and took the time to understand the real issues we were facing around scalability and robustness. By bringing HPE directly into the dialogue we were able to get a resolution."



Challenges

- Legacy HPE storage had reached end of life
- Capacity was an issue
- Storage had become difficult to manage

Solution

- HPE Nimble Storage HF20 Hybrid Array with HPE Infostight

Benefits

- Storage capacity to meet future requirements
- Increased performance
- More manageable environment



cristie data
an iomart company

Storage / Virtualisation
Backup / Recovery / Protection

HPE Nimble Storage from Cristie Data

That resolution was HPE Nimble Storage which, although a completely new technology for British Bakels, would be compatible with the rest of its infrastructure and set the foundations for a new proactive and predictive infrastructure strategy with HPE Infosight. Cristie Data was able to demonstrate the benefits of the new solution with a real-time demonstration involving one of HPE's senior storage engineers.

"The demonstration was incredibly useful. I could see this was the way forward for our business and with a 30 day satisfaction guarantee in place from HPE, I felt confident in making the change," says Mike. "There was a seamless implementation by the Cristie engineer who provided excellent support on the day and made sure we were all set up and ready to take it forward. He was really knowledgeable and helped us through, jumping on a call to talk us through the teething problems you naturally have in the first few days."

One of the problems with the previous storage set up was that it became difficult to manage. The predictive analytics in HPE Infosight (which are unique to the HPE infrastructure) have made this a thing of the past.

"Before, I stayed away from managing my own storage because it could be difficult and temperamental," Mike explains. "With the Nimble it's very easy to set up new LUNs, and move data around. You get all the information, it's very intuitive to use."

A test was run to simulate a hard disk failure scenario. "We immediately got all the alerts through and we were really impressed by the speed at which HPE were on the phone calling us to resolve it," says Mike.

The Results

First of all, 12TB of data was moved onto the new storage, which the Nimble appliance compressed by a quarter. Since then, having added even more data, it's occupying just 3.6TB of space. The move from Storevirtual SAN to HPE Nimble has also

consolidated 8U of rack space to 4U. Nimble arrays can survive motherboard failure, power failure and up to six drive failures – their performance is guaranteed because it's driven by the processes and controllers.

All of this means British Bakels now has more than enough storage capacity, as well as the resiliency necessary to meet future data growth.

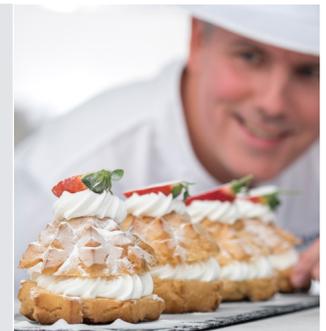
"I'm really impressed with the Nimble Storage, it hasn't skipped a beat," says Mike. "It's exceeded our expectations and the deduplication is unreal. The performance is really good and we're only going to get more from it when we upgrade other parts of our network in the coming months. We're saving money on storage, power and management time and have plenty of capacity to cope with our future requirements."

British Bakels can look ahead with confidence with pro-active support from Cristie Data.

"Cristie Data did a great job, especially as they had no prior knowledge of our environment," Mike concludes. "I'd be very confident working with them on any future IT Infrastructure projects we might have."

About British Bakels

As a group of international companies, Bakels manufacture and distribute a wide range of innovative ingredients and application solutions. Our ingredients are tailor-made for the markets they serve, covering the bread, pastry, cake and confectionery sectors. For more visit www.britishbakels.co.uk



About Cristie Data

Cristie Data has been an IT infrastructure and data management specialist for over 40 years. We take a consultative and platform agnostic approach to any customer project and advise on the solutions that are best aligned to your business. For more information go to www.cristie.co.uk