

Scalable storage solution improves Alfa Laval information management

Engineering company Alfa Laval needed to free up storage capacity and enhance performance in its virtualised server environment. The old backup solution was too slow and sluggish to manage. An extended solution from Proact gave Alfa Laval an environments to grow into which can also handle future system virtualisations.

"We needed to upgrade our existing storage solution to ensure that we had a more secure, more efficient storage environment. We worked together with Proact to assess the situation and identify the most appropriate strategy for our infrastructure work. This resulted in a solution which we can grow into for a long time to come," says Marcus Nelson, the man responsible for



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IT infrastructure at Alfa Laval and also for implementation of the solution.

Alfa Laval is a global supplier of special products and technical process solutions in the fields of heat transfer, separation and flow management. The company has a presence in almost 100 countries and is listed on the Nasdaq OMX Nordic. The company employs a total of 12 000 staff, of whom 1 900 work in Sweden. Its turnover last year amounted to around SEK 28 billion.

Alfa Laval wanted to connect its existing virtualised servers – which are based on VMware – to the storage environment so as streamline backup procedures. The old backup solution was too slow and sluggish to manage. Restoring old or lost files was also far too time-consuming a task. The cost of storing documents was also unnecessarily steep.

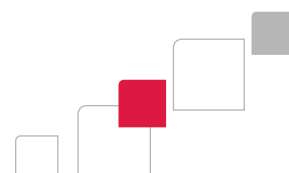
"We wanted to come up with smarter ways of utilising our infrastructure. Proact came up with some good suggestions for how we could allocate performance and disc space according to what best suited our various systems and file types," says Marcus Nelson.

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The solution supplied by Proact is based on an extension of Alfa Laval's existing disk-based storage system from NetApp. Backups are created in no time at all time, and the restore time is extremely

short. IT personnel are also finding it a lot easier to manage the environment.

In this new solution, Alfa Laval has selected something known as tiered storage, which ensures that storage performance is utilised wherever it is needed the most.



For less demanding files such as ordinary Office documents, simpler disks – which are also cheaper to buy – will suffice. Tiered storage ensures selection of the most appropriate storage medium on the basis of the varying requirements in terms of access time and areas of application for various types of information.

This upgrade of the storage environment is also providing an opportunity to utilise what is known as snapshot technology, instantaneous shots or backups of the information. This means that Alfa Laval's staff can recover "lost" documents themselves by simply retrieving the most recent snapshot.

When selecting a supplier, one important factor for Alfa Laval was that the company wanted a local partner with top skills, a company that could quickly and professionally come up with

solutions to Alfa Laval's storage and backup challenges.

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"The migration to the new environment went fabulously well. We only had minimum downtime. As a result, our entire storage environment is more secure and our lead times are kept to a minimum. We will be continuing to consolidate our existing systems, and we plan on running more or less all new systems virtually. We estimate that this work will be completed in late

2010," says Marcus Nelson.

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Technical data

The Proact solution for Alfa Laval

- Proact has built on Alfa Laval's existing disk-based storage platform in a virtualised storage environment.
- Snapshot technology from NetApp, including SnapVault and Snap-Manager for SQL Server. VMware. NetApp deduplication.
- Proact is also responsible for ongoing support and maintenance.



Proact is a specialist in storage, archiving and securing large volumes of mission-critical information. As an independent integrator, Proact provides systems, support and consulting services within our focus area of data storage and archiving.

The Proact Group has more than 300 employees and conducts business in Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. Proact was founded in 1994 and its parent company, Proact IT Group AB (publ) has been listed on Nasdaq OMX Stockholm since 1999 under the symbol PACT.

Additional information about Proact is available at www.proact.eu.

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