

Honda France Manufacturing

EMC Avamar reinforces this customer's vital commitment to quality with a powerful data backup and recovery solution



Business overview

As one of Europe's leading manufacturers of power products including lawnmowers, lawn trimmers, tillers, and general-purpose engines, Honda France Manufacturing has established a reputation for manufacturing excellence. Located in Orleans, France, the company assembles over two hundred thousand power products per year for distribution throughout the European market.

Its commitment to excellence helps the company to grow market share and profitability within an increasingly competitive environment. That commitment can be summed up in Honda's global mission statement: 'Creating consistent quality worldwide.'

Challenges

Data backup and recovery processes and capabilities are critical to achieving that mission. "Our IT department manages over six terabytes of data that are vital to our manufacturing and administrative operations," explains Benoit Perrussel, system networks manager for Honda France Manufacturing. "Our primary data sets include production, mail server, and fileserver data. Additionally, our data storage infrastructure holds business intelligence, payroll, and financial information."

"This data is critical to our success by driving just-in-time manufacturing processes, as well as communications, administration, and financial operations," Mr. Perrussel continues.

EMC solution

The challenge: Speeding the backup window while maximizing accuracy

Accurate IT data management, backup, and deduplication processes are vital to the company. Beginning in 2004, Honda France Manufacturing began to invest in methods to increase data redundancy, while also reducing IT infrastructure requirements and costs. In 2005, the company embarked on a steady investment in EMC® solutions, including VMware® server solutions. Within a mixed IT environment, including HP servers operating with Microsoft® Windows® 2003, backup capabilities were managed using Symantec NetBackup. The results, however, were unsatisfactory.

"Our legacy backup process was incredibly slow," Mr. Perrussel remarks. "Just backing up the data held on the fileserver could take twelve hours. Due to the large backup window, we were only able to implement a full systems backup once a week. Additionally, our old backup solution did not provide a deduplication capability. This meant that we had to back up all datasets, rather than any incremental data that had not yet been backed up."

Customer

Honda France Manufacturing

Industry

Manufacturing

EMC solutions

- EMC Avamar 4.1
- EMC CLARiiON CX4-120
- VMware ESX v13
- EMC DiskXtender
- EMC SAN Copy

Key benefits

- Increased backup speed—reduces backup times by a factor of 12
- Minimized backup window—enables daily backup routine
- Powerful built-in de-duplication—minimizes data transfer requirements during backup
- Reduced costs—de-duplication minimizes bandwidth requirements and data storage infrastructure costs
- Exceptional data recovery speeds
- Robust and accurate recoveries
- Flexibility and scalability

One of the reasons for the large backup window was the fact that the legacy backup solution was not fully integrated into Honda France Manufacturing's IT infrastructure. "The Symantec backup software and systems were offline," Mr. Perrussel explains. "This contributed to the sluggish speed of backing up vital information."

"To increase backup, deduplication, and storage capabilities, we began a search for a new solution that could better meet the requirements of the company," he continues.

An integrated EMC backup, deduplication, and storage solution

In 2009, Honda France Manufacturing contracted with EMC to provide a completely integrated backup, deduplication, disaster recovery, and storage solution capability. Working closely with EMC (France) consultants, EMC recommended a bundle of solutions to meet this company's precise requirement. The EMC solution included EMC Avamar® 4.1, two EMC CLARiiON® CX4-120, VMware ESX® v13, EMC DiskXtender®, and EMC SAN Copy™.

The EMC Avamar backup and recovery solution acts as the core of the integrated solution, and took only five business days to implement. Avamar utilizes patented data deduplication technologies to identify redundant data at source, thereby minimizing data backup transfer requirements prior to transmission over the LAN/WAN. Benefits of Avamar include fast backup functionality, lower infrastructure costs, and quick data recovery in the event of systems failure.

The EMC solution also includes two CLARiiON CX4-120 networked storage systems for disaster recovery storage and data redundancy; VMware ESX for efficient data center management; DiskXtender for Windows to transparently migrate inactive or infrequently accessed files to secondary archiving SATA disks storage; and EMC SAN Copy for data migration from old HP storage to CLARiiON CX4.

"Unlike our older backup and disaster recovery processes, the EMC solution is fully integrated into our IT infrastructure," Mr. Perrussel states. "It has been implemented as an online solution. This provides us with much higher speeds of data backup, as well as quick data recovery and easy management."

Mr. Perrussel has held the older Symantec data backups in reserve since the implementation of the EMC Avamar solution in August 2009. "By August 2010, all data backups will have been stored and managed using the new EMC process," he states.

Summary

Expediting data backup while minimizing storage costs

Today, the Honda France Manufacturing data backup window has been significantly reduced. "As I explained, backing up just the fileserver with the old system took twelve hours," Mr. Perrussel states. "With EMC Avamar, we can now back up that same fileserver—600 GB of data—in only one hour. We are now backing up 41 separate VMware virtual machines every day."

EMC Avamar and the integrated EMC solution provide Mr. Perrussel and his IT team with the power to back up Honda France Manufacturing's complete data sets on a daily basis. "Avamar's speed has provided an exceptional result. The Avamar console is very user friendly, making it very easy to use and manage. Consequently, it makes daily backups efficient and productive, while ensuring accuracy," he states.

Avamar's data deduplication technologies have also significantly reduced the cost of IT infrastructure. "Avamar and DiskXtender work together to minimize data storage requirements while increasing management efficiency," Mr. Perrussel explains. "Avamar deduplicates data, allowing us to back up in block mode rather than full files. The solution is particularly adept at handling large file sizes."

Honda France Manufacturing's primary storage is held on expensive high channel fiber disks. However, Mr. Perrussel has been able to make significant cost savings by creating a secondary storage facility with a storage solution based on less expensive SATA disks. "Avamar has helped us to save significantly by allowing us to deduplicate data, thereby minimizing storage requirements," he says.

Fast data recovery with EMC Avamar

Mr. Perrussel is also impressed with the speed of data recovery. "Avamar's recovery mode is very impressive and efficient. We recently tested this on a server using a Windows 2003 operating system. In only one hour, Avamar recovered everything: all operating systems, the Microsoft SQL Server®, and all files and data sets. It was very impressive."

"With EMC Avamar, we can now back up a single fileserver—600 GB of data—in only one hour compared to the twelve hours that it used to take. We are now backing up 41 separate VMware virtual machines every day."

Benoit Perrussel, System Networks Manager, Honda France Manufacturing

A strong recommendation for EMC Avamar

Mr. Perrussel has a high opinion of the integrated EMC Avamar solution. "I recommend EMC Avamar because Honda France Manufacturing has received exceptional benefits, mirroring our own commitment to quality. First, Avamar has increased our efficiency by minimizing the backup window. We can take full data backups every day, thereby protecting vital operating information."

"Second, it is very easy to use and manage," he continues. "Like many IT people, I have many things to do in my day. It takes me little time to support Avamar, which increases my productivity. Third, Avamar's recovery capabilities are exceptional. I am confident in the solution, knowing that it will provide accurate restores."

"And fourth, it is a very cost effective solution," he concludes. "Avamar's deduplication capabilities save the company money not only by delivering quick data backup speeds, but also by allowing us to minimize IT infrastructure and storage requirements."



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