

Henry Boot PLC ensures rapid disaster recovery with Arcserve



INDUSTRY: Construction
COMPANY: Henry Boot PLC
EMPLOYEES: 500
SOLUTION: Arcserve Appliance

Henry Boot

With its 130-year heritage, Henry Boot PLC, a Group of Companies, is one of the UK's leading land promotion, property investment and development companies. The Group is split into six primary businesses, with a common focus on empowering and developing people to creating long-term value and sustainable growth for their stakeholders.

CHALLENGE

The company was using multiple, and ageing, solutions to protect data across its diverse IT environment, and any outage would impact its entire operations. With backups taking up to 20 hours to complete, Henry Boot decided to look for a single, more efficient solution.

SOLUTION

The company deployed an Arcserve Appliance to each of its two head offices, protecting 145 terabytes of data, which is reduced to just 28 terabytes and replicated between sites. Incremental backups are taken throughout the day, with an overnight backup taking just two hours.

RESULTS

With Arcserve, Henry Boot can backup and restore data quickly and efficiently with minimal involvement from the IT team. It also now has a full disaster recovery solution to ensure business continuity for the long term.

BUSINESS

Leading property investment and development experts

With its 130-year heritage, Henry Boot PLC, a group of companies, is one of the UK's leading land promotion, property investment and development companies. The Group is split into six primary businesses, with a common focus on empowering and developing people to creating long-term value and sustainable growth for their stakeholders.

The Group employs around 500 people and has head offices in Sheffield and Dronfield, with additional offices in Glasgow, Leeds, Northampton, Manchester, Bristol, Birmingham and London, as well as pop up construction sites.



CHALLENGE

Managing slow and ageing technology

In recent years, IT at Henry Boot has evolved from primarily supporting back-office tasks to become the platform for the company's entire operations. Business continuity relies on highly available IT systems and the ability to rapidly restore data and operations after any incident. However, Henry Boot's ageing backup and recovery processes were slow and the solutions demanded high levels of maintenance, consuming valuable resources as well as potentially impacting productivity.



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- Daniel Dracup, IT Project Systems Manager, Henry Boot PLC



"Our nightly backups could take as long as 20 hours to complete, affecting performance and the protection of data," explained Daniel Dracup, IT Project Systems Manager for the company. "Our users need fast and responsive IT systems, so we decided to look for a solution that was easier to manage and consumed less bandwidth."

Ensuring protection across the company's diverse IT environment, including its HyperV virtualised platform, also meant that the IT team had to manage multiple solutions for backup and disaster recovery to ensure company data was fully protected.

SOLUTION

Replication across key sites for effective disaster recovery

The company went to market to find a more robust and reliable data protection and disaster recovery solution, drawing up a short list of five solutions before deploying Arcserve Appliance in 2017.

"We met the Arcserve team at a road show and were impressed by their confidence in the product – not every vendor will let you do a free trial, but Arcserve helped us with our proof of concept and to migrate our data into the trial solution," recalls Daniel.

The trial was a roaring success, as Paul Greenwood, IT Project Systems Engineer, explains, "Seeing how efficiently Arcserve managed our data convinced us we'd found the right solution. The whole IT team found it easy to use and we could also see that it offered a robust disaster recovery solution."

The company initially deployed two 16 terabyte 8300 Arcserve Appliances with one located at Henry Boot PLC headquarters in Sheffield and the other at Henry Boot Construction's head office in Dronfield. The project was a huge success, leading to a supplemental purchase of two 80 terabyte 8400 Arcserve Appliances to facilitate the protection of additional workloads including Office 365.

The appliances make three to four incremental backups throughout the day and a full backup in the evening, taking just two hours instead of 20. The 145 terabytes of raw data is then deduplicated at a rate of 81% down to 28 terabytes, and is replicated between the main two sites for an added layer of protection.



“With two Arcserve appliances on different sites, we can ensure continuity if any systems go down,” comments Daniel. “In fact, the recent additional purchases enabled an appliance for our London office to ensure that our disaster recovery plan is completely failsafe.”



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In addition to faster backup, the solution also enables data to be recovered more easily. Arcserve’s instant VM feature has already proven valuable to the company, allowing it to provide access to critical servers in less than five minutes from recovery points housed on the appliance datastore. This means the IT team can spend less time on backups and data recovery to focus on more strategic activities.

RESULTS

A strategic, long-term solution for business continuity

Partnering with Arcserve has not only delivered more effective solutions for the short-term, it has enabled Henry Boot’s IT team to adopt a more strategic long-term approach. As Paul reveals, “The new capabilities offered by Arcserve led us to think more strategically about our data and systems and their long-term management and continuity.”



Arcserve provides a fast and reliable solution for everyday needs and, more importantly, offers a long-term and agile solution to support future needs.

– Daniel Dracup, IT Project Systems Manager, Henry Boot PLC



For example, the company now has different tiers of server according to business criticality. It has also brought its Office 365 data back in house, replacing cloud-to-cloud backup, and new requirements, such as GDPR compliance, can be more easily accommodated with the new solution.

With Arcserve Appliance, Henry Boot has been able to:

- Free up resources in the IT department
- Safeguard user productivity
- Build a roadmap for long-term data management.

“Arcserve provides a fast and reliable solution for everyday needs and, more importantly, offers a long-term and agile solution to support future requirements,” concludes Daniel.



For more information on Arcserve, please visit [arcserve.com](https://www.arcserve.com)