



JW Lees can grow with confidence with Arcserve

CLIENT PROFILE

INDUSTRY: Brewery/hospitality

COMPANY: JW LEES

EMPLOYEES: 1,300

JW Lees operates a brewery and 150-strong pub chain including hotels and inns, supplying pubs and the retail sector with its award-winning beer. Founded in 1828, the sixth generation family business employs 1,300 people across the north west of England.

PROBLEM

The company needed to replace time-consuming tape backups with a faster and more efficient disaster recovery solution to support plans to grow its property portfolio.

SOLUTION

Arcserve protects 11 terabytes of data, including 11 physical and 17 virtual servers that support the supply chain. Business critical servers are backed up every three hours while all other servers are backed up nightly, with additional weekly and monthly backups for an added layer of protection.

RESULTS

With Arcserve, JW Lees' IT team is free to focus on more valuable work, with the assurance of having a full disaster recovery solution that supports its growing business.



THE PROBLEM Time-consuming backups impact operations

Family firm JW Lees is a fast-growing brewery and pub operator in the north west of England, supplying beer to its estate of 30 managed pubs, three large hotels and nine smaller inns, as well as more than 100 tenanted pub partners. It also sells to the retail and pub trade.

The sixth generation business employs 1,300 people, including the teams across the managed estate, as well as workers at the brewery and head office. It has ambitious growth plans and is on the look-out for more pubs and inns to add to its growing portfolio.

“With up to 200 computer-users across the business and our managed pubs, it was becoming a challenge to manage the increasing volume of data,” explains Mike Wild, IT Manager. “Our file management system was buckling under the weight of Excel spreadsheets, Word documents and presentations, and of course thousands of emails with huge attachments, as most users think space is infinite!”

With rising volumes of data putting a strain on the company’s local tape backup system, JW Lees began looking for other options. “We were backing up every night from 7pm but would sometimes find it still running the next morning, so we’d have to manually stop it because people needed to access key services,” says Mike. “It was wasting time and not even fully protecting us against data loss.”

Data recovery was also slow and cumbersome. “If someone mistakenly deleted an email the granular recovery was horrendous – you got there in the end but it would take two to three hours,” he adds.

THE SOLUTION Comprehensive protection across the portfolio

In 2016, the company decided to invest in a disc-to-disc solution and, with the help of its strategic partner, selected Arcserve Appliance following some convincing demonstrations. “I got the box with preloaded instructions and found the Arcserve training course I’d been on was invaluable,” says Steven Jones, support engineer at JW Lees. “It took just a few hours to get the first backup running and only a couple of days to tweak it.”

The company initially deployed Arcserve Appliance 7100, replicating to Arcserve Cloud, but increasing data volumes over the last three years prompted the company to upgrade the appliance to Arcserve 8200 when space became tight. The 7100 is now used as its replication server at one of the hotels. “The ease of use and flexibility of Arcserve made it very easy for us to move from cloud to a secondary appliance replica,” says Mike. “I now only look at the backup dashboard once a week because I’m so confident it’s working well.”

The solution protects 11 terabytes of data, with the appliance providing 100 terabytes of recoverable backups stored in only 3.6 terabytes, supporting a mixture of 11 physical and 17 virtual servers across its brewery and pub sites – all backed up to the brewery. Its entire supply chain is protected, from purchasing, to selling, along with a range of databases for managing the business.

Its core servers – database, email and file servers – are backed up every three hours while all other servers are backed up nightly, starting at 7.30pm and running until 1am, while it also conducts weekly backup and monthly backups. “Backups are now purely incremental and instantaneous,” says Mike. “I’m really confident that this solution will scale with us as we grow.”



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– Mike Wild, IT Manager, JW Lees



THE RESULTS Fast and effective backup and recovery

JW Lees has a fast, reliable backup and recovery system that will support its business as it scales.

“I love the fact that if a server goes down you can set it up as an instant virtual machine recovery,” says Mike. “We had a major incident when our core file server went down recently, but with Arcserve it was quickly resolved.”

He continues: “We’ve got a very grateful IT team who are no longer wasting time – what was a two to three hour file restore recovery is now just a five-minute job.”

With Arcserve Appliance, JW Lees can:

- MINIMISE THE RISK OF DATA LOSS
- SAFEGUARD VITAL DATABASES
- FREE UP RESOURCES WITHIN THE IT DEPARTMENT
- RECOVER QUICKLY IN THE EVENT OF A DISASTER

JW Lees now plans to create a virtual standby solution to deliver more advanced disaster recovery, as well as automating testing. “At the moment we back up and replicate on site, but I want to create a standby solution so if the brewery burnt down we could still trade,” says Steven. “That simply wouldn’t have been possible before – Arcserve gives us the confidence our data is quickly recoverable, however large our business grows.”



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