## Case Study

We make sure



Fujitsu Siemens Computers virtual tape technology for the telecommunication market

# Belgacom opts for CentricStor to speed up data protection in the open systems world

#### belgacom

### » CentricStor lets us virtualize our installed physical tape libraries to permit quick, reliable data backup and recovery. «

Pascal De Cock, Project Manager, Belgacom

#### $\rightarrow$ The challenge

**Consolidation of data protection** – Migration from a heterogeneous tape storage environment to uniform tape processing for the mainframe environment and open systems world to handle expansion of data volume **Improvement in service quality** – The increasingly large time windows required for the protection of data in open systems are becoming just as critical as error rates for backup and recovery

**Investment security** – Total solution integrates seamlessly into the existing environment and supports scalability and the flexible use of new technology in the future



The **Belgacom Group** (Belgacom S.A. and its subsidiaries) is the first telecommunications company in Belgium and a market leader in many fields, particularly in wholesale and retail fixed line services, mobile communications, Internet and broadband data transmission services. At the end of the fiscal year on 31 December 2005, the Group reported a total revenue of EUR 5,696 million. More info: **www.belgacom.be** 

#### $\rightarrow$ The solution

Belgacom consolidated data protection of its mainframe environment and open systems with CentricStor®. The CentricStor grid architecture functionally encompasses two data centers. Each data center has a CentricStor Virtual Tape Appliance that protects data through local and remote tape processing. EMC NetWorker™ is used for automated backup and recovery of the open systems. Belgacom has been a satisfied user of virtual tape technology in the mainframe environment since 2001 and is now using this solution to achieve uniform disk-to-disk-to-tape backup for various operating system worlds. The benefits in the area of open systems include significantly faster backup, more reliable data protection and substantial savings in terms of investment in real drives and administrative expense.

#### $\rightarrow$ Solution components

- □ CentricStor VTA 4000 and CentricStor VTA 3000 installed at two locations for BS2000/OSD, HP<sup>®</sup> Unix, Solaris<sup>™</sup>, SUSE Linux<sup>®</sup>, Windows<sup>®</sup>
- Remote tape connection with DWDM (Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing) optical fibre solution
- □ EMC NetWorker with 10 defined data zones for all open systems
- □ Tape drives: 24x IBM TS1120

#### $\rightarrow$ Customer benefits

- Uniform, completely integrated tape processing for heterogeneous system worlds
- □ Significantly faster backup
- □ Greater reliability since mechanical drive and robot errors can no longer impact backup
- □ Greater economy through lower administrative expense and savings in terms of real drives
- □ Future-safe due to modular scalability and compatibility with new technology

#### $\rightarrow$ The project

Belgacom decided to abandon its existing classic environment and consolidate tape processing to cope with rapid expansion of data volume and the problem of time-intensive backups in the open systems world. The goal was to achieve a uniform solution for the mainframe environment and open systems that would combine high performance and reliability, integrate seamlessly into the existing environment and offer excellent scalability. After reviewing all available alternatives, Belgacom opted for virtual tape technology from Fujitsu Siemens Computers since the company had already had positive experience with this technology in the BS2000/OSD environment. Pascal De Cock, Belgacom's project manager, says: "During the decision-making process, we found that Fujitsu Siemens Computers was the only provider of virtual tape technology that fulfilled all of our requirements." The crucial factor behind the company's decision was the fact that CentricStor True Tape Virtualization can be seamlessly embedded in heterogeneous system environments and completely integrates high-performance hard-disk systems with the physical tape library. Through shorter time windows for backup and reliable restore processes, the modular scalability of the solution also significantly improves service levels. Belgacom installed CentricStor in two data centers located approximately 50 kilometers apart. Each system uses local and remote connected tape drives. The two data centers remote tape drives are linked by a DWDM (Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing) optical fiber solution. Belgacom uses EMC NetWorker to manage protection of data from the open systems world. Belgacom centralized administration and efficient execution of backup of the 200 Terabytes of data per week from the distributed open system world into ten data zones with EMC NetWorker.

#### → Project partner



#### $\rightarrow$ A record of success

"CentricStor gives us a completely integrated disk-to-disk-to-tape solution for various operating systems that simplifies administration and makes us independent of the installed physical tape. We replaced approximately 60 older tape drives with only 24 IBM® TS1120 drives and shortened the time window for backup of the open systems from 30 hours to 11 hours," reports De Cock enthusiastically. Belgacom also benefits from greater reliability since CentricStor prevents the loss of data due to physical tape errors through automatic reorganization of the data media. And, finally, CentricStor represents a future-safe investment since new technology can be easily integrated into the environment without affecting processes.

#### → Contact

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