

Progressive independent Irish Oil and Gas Company relies on OneXafe and ShadowProtect to support the business strategy to become a leading independent exploration and production company



Client profile



Company

San Leon Energy

Country

Ireland

Industry

Oil and Gas

Number of employees

40 IT users

Solution

2 OneXafe 4412

ShadowProtect SPX

About San Leon Energy

San Leon Energy is an independent oil and gas exploration and production company, headquartered in Ireland, with offices across Europe and Africa.

With around 40 IT users, San Leon's ongoing exploration and seismic operations activities result in vast quantities of Geographic Information System (GIS) data that must be stored, alongside general business data such as SQL Database, Word, PowerPoint and Excel files, along with cross-company messaging.

Up until 2018, San Leon used two Dell EqualLogic SAN solutions which each held about 30TB, with one in Dublin and one in Warsaw. Dublin's SAN was backed up onto an onsite NAS solution, with data then moved offsite to a NAS in Warsaw, with Warsaw's data moved offsite to a NAS in Dublin. In addition, San Leon had Windows file servers and was using a Veeam solution to back-up VMs.

The challenge

Initially, the process San Leon had in place worked well and was adequate for the company's needs. As the level of data expanded, the system slowed down and problems started to appear.

"The infrastructure we had in place at the time worked well in theory, but we were finding that if an additional 3 to 4TB of data were added, the system would go into panic, trying to transfer data over a good fibre connection with difficulty. We increasingly had to get involved ourselves to make it work. Occasionally we would have to re-synchronise the system manually, sending the NAS, containing

the Dublin backups, to Warsaw, then copy that locally in Warsaw to get it synchronized, and then copy that back to Dublin. This all took up a lot of time and was inefficient to say the least”, said Mark FitzSimon, Head of IT at San Leon.

The team at San Leon realised this would be particularly problematic in the event of a disaster if the system needed to be restored quickly.

“We were reasonably comfortable with it, but it was never a bullet-proof solution,” Mark added.

“After considering various options including upgrading to a new Dell EqualLogic SAN, we settled on StorageCraft OneXafe 4412 for its snapshotting and replication capabilities.”

Mark FitzSimon,
Head of IT, San Leon

The Solution

In time, the EqualLogic system began to age and therefore needed to be replaced. Mark approached his StorageCraft IT solutions and services provider to get recommendations for a suitable solution.

“After considering various options including upgrading to a new Dell EqualLogic SAN, we settled on StorageCraft OneXafe 4412 for its snapshotting and replication capabilities,” said Mark.

After a successful trial, San Leon purchased two OneXafe units, each with 30TB. One has been deployed onsite in the Dublin HQs, and the other one in the off-site DR also in Dublin, rather than Warsaw, to make it easier to transfer data in the event of an emergency. The team completely replaced its Windows file servers with OneXafe.

“We synced up the OneXafe and now it just churns away without any issues. From the start, we were impressed with its capacity and the way it dealt with storage,” said Mark.

San Leon also purchased and deployed StorageCraft ShadowProtect SPX to back up its SQL Database and mail servers every couple of hours during the working day. The team also uses Veeam to back up VMs during non-production hours.



Results

The new system has dramatically improved efficiency levels for the San Leon team, saving time that was previously spent on manual intervention due to system failure. Its active directory integration has also improved the workflow.

“Invariably, with the previous system, we would have to check it and then something would go wrong and you would have to run the whole process again, whereas StorageCraft is pretty much ‘fire and forget’.

“We can extend all the groups that have access to the shared data by matching the permissions through active directory with those groups, avoiding duplications,” explained Mark.

The scalability offered by StorageCraft OneXafe has also given the San Leon team peace of mind, knowing that capacity can be increased quickly and easily if needed.

“The ability to grow and scale the capacity rapidly is always attractive for us. If we got another production license we may have to expand quickly, so it’s good to know that StorageCraft can handle that. Before, it always felt like we were fighting for space.”

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In addition, San Leon no longer needs to run the regular updates required with the Windows file server. In addition, the OneXafe immutable snapshots ensure data is secured and available in the event of a ransomware attack.

“Given the size and quantities of data we have, it can be difficult to find a window of time long enough to allow us to back everything up in one go. Being able to eliminate non-essential data from the backup process by simply leveraging the snapshots and replications is perfect. The whole process is much easier now because it’s all done onboard the box itself. The data is secure because it’s replicated offsite as well,” Mark noted.

San Leon started working with StorageCraft around 12 months ago and hasn’t looked back since.

“StorageCraft just seems to work. You think it can’t be that easy, but it actually is,” concluded Mark.



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