

NEO[®] LTO Tape Automation at Schwan Cosmetics

For backup of essential digital assets



Schwan Cosmetics, a global leader in cosmetic pencils, relies on a strong collaborative relationship and scalable products from Overland-Tandberg

neoseries[®]

Challenges

- The introduction of a virtual environment made it necessary to change the data protection strategy
- Flexible scalability is vital due to ever-increasing amounts of data
- Automatic notification and 24x7 remote access is a requirement
- Investment protection via scalability is a prerequisite

Solution

- NEO[®]xl 80 base module with 2 expansion modules
- 2 LTO-6 tape drives
- Veeam Backup & Replication 9.5

Schwan-STABILO is well known for writing tools. With the subsidiary Schwan Cosmetics, located in Heroldsberg, Germany the Schwanhäußer Industrie Holding GmbH also manages the development and production of cosmetic pencils, like eye shadow, kohl, lipstick, lipliner, and make-up products.

The manufacturing process begins with the delivery and quality inspection of the raw materials. Production, packaging and shipping are also provided at the Heroldsberg location in modernist architecture. The Schwangruppe acts as a global employer with 5,000 employees worldwide and values social and ecological sustainability.

Established trusting relationship

The company employs a sophisticated IT Department that protects the company's valuable digital assets including all development and operational data. Over the years Schwan has relied on solutions from Overland-Tandberg for data backup.

The scalable NEO Series[®] LTO Tape Libraries have proven to be an excellent choice in protecting their data storage investment because of the compact design and long-term reliability. The ability to use new LTO generations in their existing automation supports their investment protection requirement and need to scale as their capacity requirements grow.

Evolving infrastructure

Like many companies looking for more efficiency in their data centers, Schwan Cosmetics took advantage of virtual computing infrastructures. Further, their backup strategy needed to be able to protect the company's operation as well as their VMware computing environment. Veeam was chosen as their data protection software solution along with a new Overland-Tandberg LTO Tape Library.



“During a trade show visit a few years ago, we took a look at offers of hardware for backup from various vendors. Looking closer, we found that the manufacturer of the eligible tape libraries is Overland-Tandberg. The advantages of uncomplicated access to German-speaking support was one of the main reasons for our decision. Good personal contact with the sales department and the technical team have then created a highly appreciated business relationship. The integration of the expansion modules took place without problems and in just a few minutes. This confirmed the positive experiences with Overland-Tandberg.”

Gerd Meier,
Senior IT Architect
Schwan Cosmetics Germany
GmbH & Co. KG



In 1927 the first cosmetic pencil in the world was introduced to the market: the “Schwan Eyebrow Pencil”

Future scalability of the library to add LTO media slots and additional LTO tape drives was one of the many reasons for deploying hardware from Overland-Tandberg. One hundred sixty LTO tapes and two LTO FC drives were utilized with a NEOxl 80 base module and an expansion module. The ability to scale to 560 LTO slots and 42 tape drives ensured they had investment protection managed confidently. Integration of their new Overland-Tandberg/ Veeam solution was trouble-free.

Scalability and versatility

Schwan Cosmetics initially forecasted the need for 160 LTO cartridges. Quickly it became clear that this calculated capacity would not be enough to cover the growth they were demonstrating. Within a few months they needed to scale up to accommodate a third more LTO slots. Another NEOxl 80 expansion module was deployed increasing the capacity to 240 cartridges. then in six months, a third module with additional 80 slots was installed. Because of the easy scalability of the NEO solution Schwan’s capacity requirements were met and still have the ability to grow along with their data protection needs.



The NEOxl 80 Tape Library consists of a basic module with 80 cartridge slots and 6 tape drives with scalability to 560 slots and 42 tape drives with expansion modules.

Additional functionality needed

NEOxl 80 includes significant value in its many features which was an important aspect for Schwan Cosmetics. Automatic error notification is an included attribute with NEOxl 80 and alerts users to activity that may affect the data protection operations via email or SNMP traps. The NEOxl tape library can be accessed remotely 24x7 and, if necessary, action can be taken to address the activity. Alternatively, the service can be informed with comprehensive details even on the weekends or during absence over the holiday season.

Conclusion

The great collaboration and alignment with the team responsible for data protection at Schwan and the contacts at Overland-Tandberg resulted in empowering Schwan Cosmetics with a solid data protection solution that will continue to support their needs and grow with them.



Sales and support for Overland-Tandberg products and solutions are available in over 100 countries. Contact us today at salesemea@overlandtandberg.com. Visit OverlandTandberg.com.