

Offsite backups using removable media at DREAL Nouvelle-Aquitaine

Modernizing existing backup solutions with RDX® QuikStation®



DREAL Nouvelle-Aquitaine takes backup to the next level with RDX QuikStation. The Regional Directorate for the Environment, Planning and Housing (DREAL in French) is a state-run service in France. Operating under the authority of the regional and departmental prefects, it implements and coordinates public policies from the Ministries for Ecological and Inclusive Transition and Territorial Cohesion.

rdx® QUIKSTATION™

The Challenge

Reorganizing the Nouvelle-Aquitaine administrative region, through uniting the three former entities (Aquitaine, Limousin, Poitou-Charentes), revealed the need to modernize existing backup solutions. Using existing LTO or NAS was no longer adequate. They needed to quickly deploy a high-performance solution that was simple to use and maintain, while also allowing offline and offsite backups in accordance with ANSSI recommendations.

Solution

- 3 RDX QuikStation 8 systems
- 4 sets of 8 each RDX HDD 5TB removable drive cartridges for RDX QuikStation
- Backup software: Bareos

The Organization and its Situation

The Nouvelle-Aquitaine DREAL covers 12 departments and includes three IT centers from the former regions. Pascal Laussat is Head of IT in Poitiers. The department is made up of five employees and manages approximately 350 users. "It became immediately clear when the three regions joined forces that we were all using different backup systems. In Poitiers, we were using an LTO solution that was too slow, with software that was no longer maintained. The other regions did their backups on hard disks," says Pascal Laussat. "We needed to quickly modernize our backup infrastructure and opt for a more efficient and faster solution. With our parent department giving us free reign over our choice of the technical solution, we decided to follow ANSSI's recommendations by adopting a system that allows us to secure our backups in fireproof cabinets, which are therefore also offline."

The Solution and Implementation

After a detailed study of the various solutions available on the market, DREAL selected Overland-Tandberg's RDX technology. In addition to its technical performance, the solution has everything required to meet their needs, especially in terms of day-to-day usage. The iSCSI connectivity makes it easy to connect QuikStations to the existing network, making it economical and simple to administer. Management of the storage media is extremely simple: the ruggedized RDX cartridges are used similar to the earlier LTO cartridges with the added advantage of not requiring cleaning operations. When the backup is complete, we simply remove the drive cartridge and store it in a fireproof cabinet. This means that the backup is both offsite and offline.



“We have several sets of RDX cartridges that allow us to manage several backup retention periods. We can thus restore data from a day, a week or a month ago depending on the nature of the incident, as per the ‘grandfather, father, son’ backup rotation scheme. Fortunately, we haven’t yet been in this situation, but we are prepared.”

Pascal Laussat,
DREAL Nouvelle-Aquitaine

Testimonial

“Our priority was to check the compatibility of the RDX solution with our new backup software from Bareos, and to measure any potential operational limits. Overland-Tandberg’s pre-sales team supported us in these tests with great efficiency and transparency. We typically deploy hardware using our own internal resources. It is therefore very important for us to use solutions that are simple to install. In addition, our team is already very busy in the field with desktop support, so we had to be able to rely on a solution that required little maintenance overhead. With a return rate of less than 0.5%, and a 3-year warranty on systems and media, Overland-Tandberg’s RDX technology allows us to have a reliable backup infrastructure, so we can focus on our critical production tasks.”

Why Overland-Tandberg?

“Our parent department issues no specific directives for backup solutions, as long as they comply with security recommendations. After studying the various technologies on the market, we opted for Overland-Tandberg’s RDX offering,” says Pascal Laussat. “It’s simple to use and offers the performance we need.”

“The feedback from colleagues, as well as the availability of the products, confirmed our choice. And then, a particularly important point for us, since we deploy solutions ourselves, is that we saw first-hand the great responsiveness and competence of the Overland-Tandberg France pre-sales team,” adds Pascal Laussat.



Overland-Tandberg’s RDX QuikStation is a highly flexible, removable disk-based device for automated data protection, disaster recovery, and archiving. The iSCSI storage platform is designed to provide a flexible off-site data protection and disaster recovery solution.

Conclusion

“The resources of DREAL Nouvelle-Aquitaine are now consistent across our three establishments in Limoges, Poitiers, and Bordeaux, with the same infrastructure at each site,” says Pascal Laussat. “The overall Bareos/RDX project was the result of collaboration between all teams, conducted internally under the leadership of Jérémy Bagès from the Limoges IT department. Poitiers was the first operational site, then Limoges and Bordeaux. Since the deployment of our RDX QuikStation 8, we have had a reliable and long-lasting backup infrastructure. It’s both easy to install and flexible to use. We now have rapid data restoration in the event of a disaster and can return to normal activity within the time we have allotted. In addition, the ability to store our data offsite and offline guarantees the best cyber protection and ensures our digital sovereignty.”



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