Acronis Protects the World's Largest Alumina Refinery from Data Loss

Hydro Alunorte selects Acronis Backup Advanced to defend against data disasters and cut RTO from 2 days to 2 hours

BUSINESS BACKGROUND

Hydro Alunorte, part of the global Hydro corporation, is the largest alumina refinery in the world. With 35,000 employees in 40 countries, the team at Hydro produces aluminum, extracts bauxite, refines alumina, and generates energy – positioning themselves as the only 360-degree company in the global aluminum industry. After three expansions over its 20-year history, it currently has an output capacity of over six million metric tons. That's more than the alumina production of Western Europe or the United States.

THE PROBLEM WITH DVD STORAGE

Hydro Alunorte was using Norton Ghost for backup and recovery, manually backing up their systems to DVDs, and storing them in a safe on a different floor. In some cases, it could take up to two days to recover some systems from the DVDs, a significantly longer time than the company's target recovery time objective (RTO) of two to four hours.

The RTO problem prompted Hydro Alumorte to perform a vulnerability analysis of its recovery capabilities in disaster situations. The analysis concluded that the company's data protection approach was not meeting its business and information security requirements. And, if system downtime impacted the production plant, it could cost Hydro Alunorte as much as $4.2 million every day.

INDUSTRY
Mining

KEY CHALLENGES
- Unacceptable downtime
- Inability to restore to dissimilar hardware
- Failure to reach recovery time objectives (RTOs)

KEY REQUIREMENTS
- Increased speed of complete system back up
- Ability to recover to dissimilar hardware
- Reduce storage capacity requirements
- Reduce network load during backups

PROTECTED RESOURCES
- Four Vmware vSphere ESXi hosts
- 28 physical servers (Windows)
- 70 Windows workstations
- 3,500 users

BENEFITS
- 50 percent faster backups
- The ability to recover to dissimilar hardware
- Reduced RTO from two days to two hours

In addition to not delivering the required RTOs, Norton Ghost did not support recovery to dissimilar hardware. This caused difficulties when older hardware malfunctioned because the company often could not locate identical equipment replacements.

In response to all of these issues, the team at Hydro Alunorte began searching for a new backup and recovery solution that could deliver faster system backups, recover to dissimilar hardware, reduce storage capacity requirements, and reduce the network load during backups.

STRENGTHENING IT INFRASTRUCTURE WITH ACRONIS

Hydro Alunorte selected Acronis Backup based on the recommendation from their preferred partner, the Stock Distribution group, and their technology automation supplier, ABB (ASEA Brown Boveri).

Even in early implementation stages, Hydro Alunorte experienced a 50 percent speed improvement in system backup and reduced network utilization due to the advanced deduplication feature. As a result, they saved 2.7 TB in network storage. Acronis Backup helped the company to significantly increase their infrastructure

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> **Antonio Cesar Riberiro Courbassier,
> IS/IT Infrastructure Manager**

resilience and provided a clear disaster recovery plan. Antonio Cesar Ribeiro Courbassier, IS/IT Infrastructure Manager at Hydro Alunorte explains: "Acronis has helped us address problems with prolonged downtimes, data loss, and recovery failures. With Acronis, we have significantly improved our RTOs and RPOs (recovery point objectives). We find Acronis is the best solution to protect our data and support our disaster recovery plan."

ABOUT ACRONIS

Acronis sets the standard for cyber protection and hybrid cloud storage through its innovative backup, anti-ransomware, disaster recovery, storage, and enterprise file sync and share solutions. Enhanced by AI-based Active Protection technology, blockchain-based authentication and a unique hybrid-cloud architecture, Acronis protects all data in any environment, including physical, virtual, cloud, mobile workloads and applications.

Founded in Singapore in 2003, today the company is trusted by more than 5 million consumers and 500,000 businesses worldwide, including 79 of the top 100 most valuable brands.