veeam

Keeping 40 plants running: How REHAU Group protects 2,500+ workloads with Veeam

REHAU

Organization

REHAU Group is a family-run business headquartered in Germany. With 13,000 employees worldwide, it provides innovative polymer-based solutions for industries that include construction, furniture, and medical sectors, allowing them to achieve an annual revenue of €3 billion.

Solution

Veeam Data Platform Foundation

Veeam Backup *for Microsoft Azure*

Industry

Manufacturing

Region

Europe

> " With Veeam, we can restart production lines much faster after hardware failures and other incidents, which takes pressure off staff on the factory floor and protects our competitive edge. "

Andreas Oppel
IT Infrastructure Engineer, REHAU Group

Challenge

To stay ahead of the competition, REHAU Group wanted to respond with greater speed and flexibility to meet rapid changes in fast-moving markets. The organization therefore sought a more agile approach to IT, including the ability to seamlessly protect all mission-critical workloads across multiple platforms.

Results

- Protects 2,500+ workloads with one resilience platform across hybrid IT
- Replaces 40 licensing agreements with flexible, centralized control
- Turns half-day maintenance windows into single-click updates

Business Challenges

REHAU Group is a global leader in its field because it never stays still. Instead, the company constantly develops and refines its products and services. In the spirit of continual innovation, the organization wanted to extend its competitive edge by unlocking greater agility by improving its ability to respond to market changes and customer requests.

To support its core operations, REHAU Group uses highly automated production lines across 40 plants around the world. To maximize productivity and cost efficiency, it increasingly relies on intelligent, connected digital systems to control its manufacturing processes, realizing the vision of Industry 4.0.
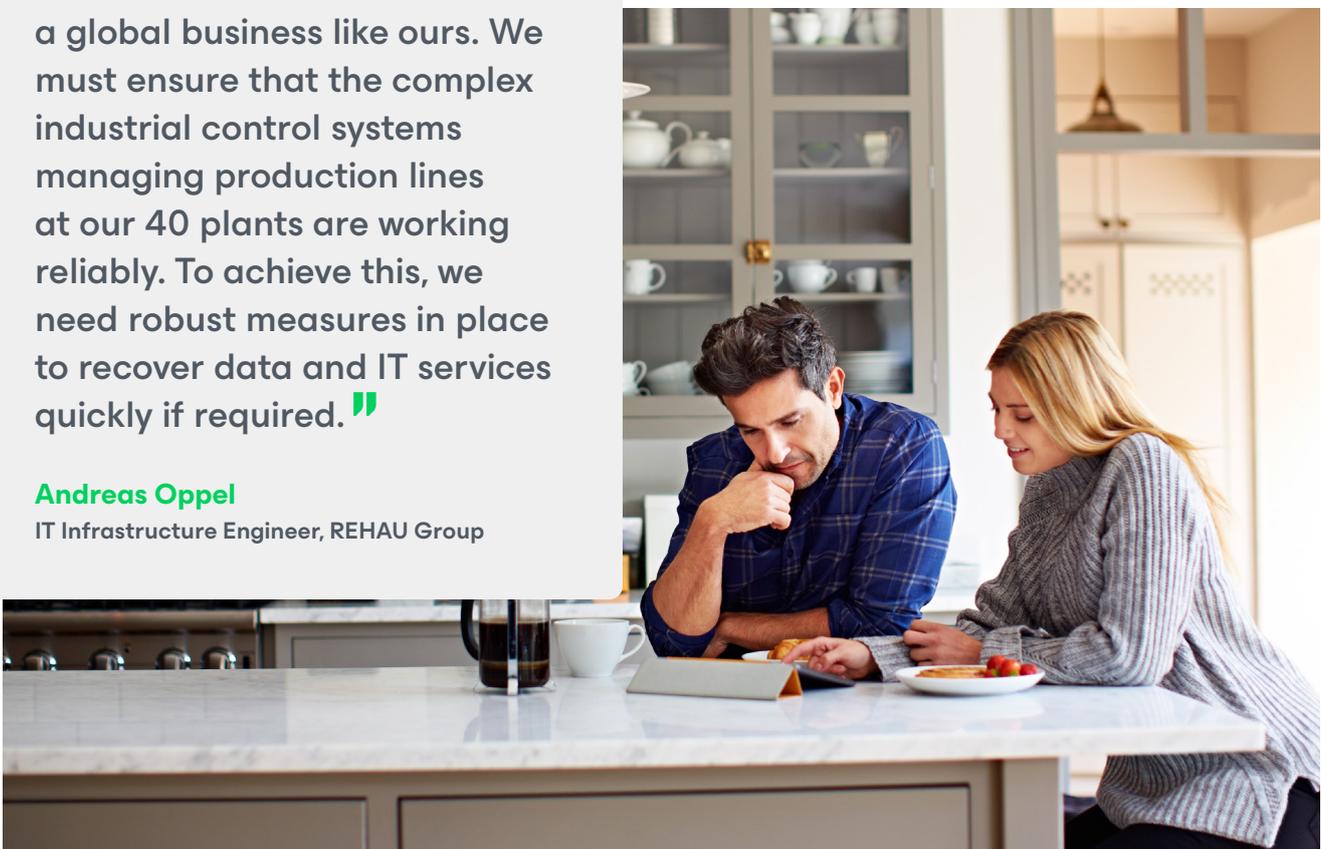
Previously, REHAU Group relied on IBM Storage Protect (formerly IBM Tivoli Storage Manager) for data resilience, but decided it wanted a more streamlined, easy-to-manage platform. With thousands of virtual servers running across three central data centers and the cloud, the organization needed a solution that could deliver both scale and flexibility.

"Instead of a one-size-fits-all approach to our global IT infrastructure, we now host our workloads on private cloud, public cloud, or hybrid solutions depending on where they run best," said Oppel. "Our previous data resilience solution was too time-consuming to maintain and difficult to use. We began looking for an alternative to deliver security, high availability, and resilience for all mission-critical workloads, no matter where they run."

"Radical resilience is essential for a global business like ours. We must ensure that the complex industrial control systems managing production lines at our 40 plants are working reliably. To achieve this, we need robust measures in place to recover data and IT services quickly if required."

Andreas Oppel
IT Infrastructure Engineer, REHAU Group

The Veeam Solution

To make their goal a reality, REHAU Group chose Veeam. First, the organization moved the systems that run at all its plants to Veeam Data Platform. Next, REHAU Group consolidated its enterprise architecture, moving from 40 independent Veeam environments to just six regional clusters to increase efficiency and simplifying management.

"Veeam is fast, user-friendly, and 100% reliable," said Oppel. "The Veeam team always responds quickly and effectively. If a virtual server is protected by Veeam, we don't have to worry about recoverability or data portability."

Today, REHAU Group protects 1,400 workloads running on 80 physical servers with VMware vSphere virtualization and in the Microsoft Azure public cloud, 1,130 distributed virtual servers on

Nutanix AHV, and some physical plant control workstations with Veeam. The company also runs a wide range of systems on various operating systems, including SUSE Linux Enterprise Server, Rocky Linux, Ubuntu Server, and Microsoft Windows.

"Using agent-based backups from Veeam, we can easily protect mission-critical workstations that control production equipment, programmable logic controllers, and connected Industry 4.0 automation solutions," said Oppel. "With Veeam, we can restart production lines much faster after hardware failures and other incidents, which takes pressure off staff on the factory floor and protects our competitive edge."

To reduce costs and modernize its IT, REHAU also recently migrated its 40 distributed server

clusters to Nutanix Cloud Infrastructure. Using Veeam, REHAU Group has a single solution for backing up and recovering servers across multiple hypervisors, thus improving flexibility and streamlining operations. By deploying Veeam Backup Enterprise Manager, REHAU Group stays on top of its large-scale deployment by using a single management solution that provides a unified view of all their systems.

Additionally, REHAU Group adopted Veeam Universal License (VUL) to substantially reduce management overhead and gain flexibility to use its licenses across all clusters, platforms, and environments.
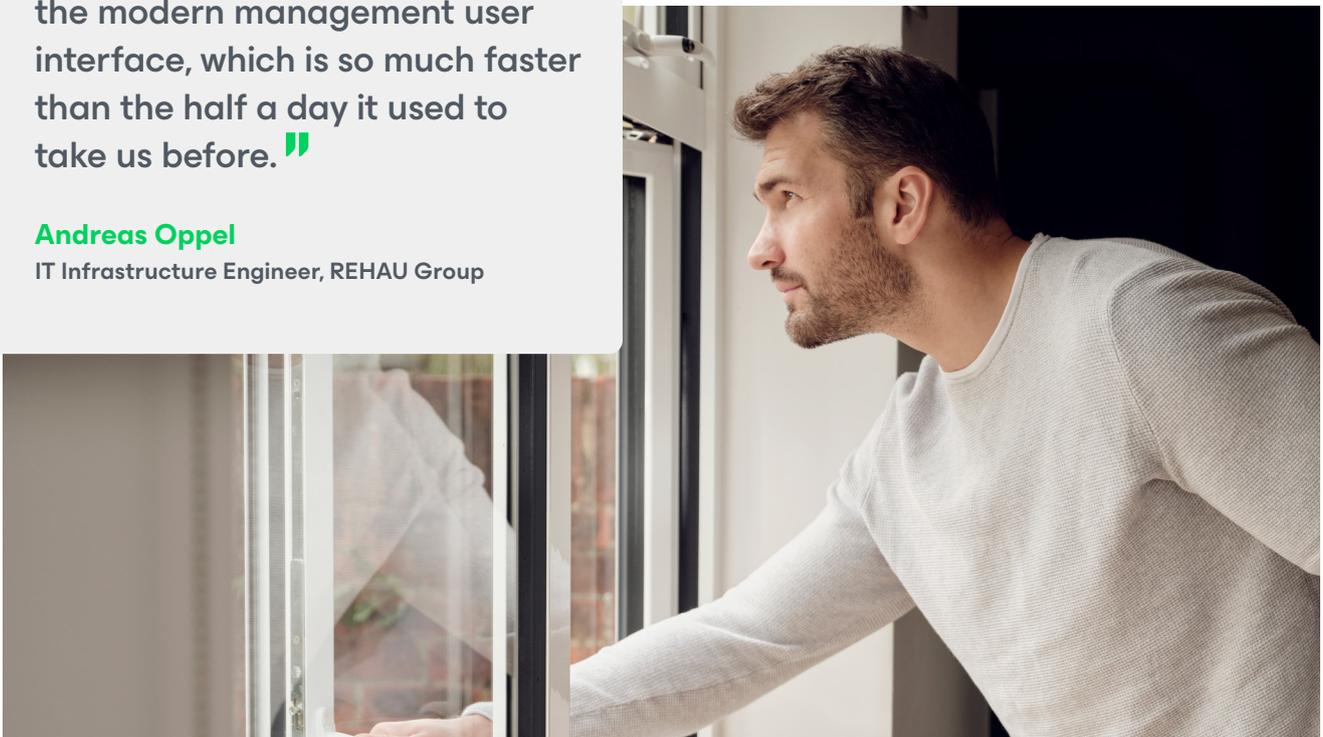
"Before, we had around 40 separate license agreements," said Oppel. "Keeping track of everything was complex, and each agreement needed to be expanded and renewed at different times. It was a lot of work that we don't have to worry about now."

REHAU Group is also rolling out the most recent release of Veeam Data Platform by using the new Veeam Software Appliance deployment option.

"Our backup servers protect global processes and transactional databases, so we need to minimize maintenance windows," said Oppel.

The lack of vendor lock-in and increased flexibility offered by Veeam delivers many benefits too.

"For my personal lab environment, I use Proxmox VE virtualization and benefit greatly from Veeam's deep ties to its community," said Oppel. "It's amazing that I can take advantage of an enterprise-grade solution with outstanding performance and capabilities, protecting my personal data with the same tools and resilience as our mission-critical business information."

> "With the new Veeam Software Appliance, installing security patches is automated. We can improve robustness and security with just a single click in the modern management user interface, which is so much faster than the half a day it used to take us before."

Andreas Oppel
IT Infrastructure Engineer, REHAU Group

The Results

Protects 2,500+ workloads with one resilience platform across hybrid IT

Using Veeam, REHAU Group can use a single data resilience solution across all its platforms, including VMware vSphere virtualization in its main data centers. This includes a Microsoft Azure public cloud, its hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI) solution Nutanix Cloud Infrastructure, and mission-critical physical workstations that control production lines.

Replaces 40 licensing agreements with flexible, centralized control

"With VUL, we can use our licenses much more flexibly as needed across 40 environments in the data centers, at our plant locations, and in the cloud," said Oppel. "This approach aligns perfectly with our IT strategy to deliver tailored, cost-efficient solutions to all divisions and group businesses."

Turns half-day maintenance windows into single-click updates

"Moving to the latest release of Veeam Data Platform with Veeam Software Appliance deployment based on a hardened Linux-powered foundation saved us a lot of time," said Oppel. "We can now update our backup and recovery environment with a single click in the management panel, making the process much more automated, easier, faster, and safer."

About Veeam Software

Veeam, the #1 global market leader in data resilience, believes businesses should control all their data whenever and wherever they need it. Veeam provides data resilience through data backup, data recovery, data portability, data security, and data intelligence. Based in Seattle, Veeam protects over 550,000 customers worldwide who trust Veeam to keep their businesses running. Learn more at www.veeam.com or follow Veeam on LinkedIn @veeam-software and X @veeam.

→ Learn more: **veeam.com**