

Boosting data resilience: How TFG achieves 80% faster recovery with Veeam



Organization

With a diverse portfolio of 39 lifestyle and apparel brands, [The Foschini Group \(TFG\)](#) is a dynamic, forward-looking retailer based in South Africa. Headquartered in Cape Town, the company has approximately 4,700 outlets on five continents and employs over 47,000 employees.

Solution

[Veeam Data Platform — Premium](#)
[Veeam Kasten for Kubernetes](#)

Industry

Retail

Region

Middle East & Africa

“ We can now recover critical systems up to 80% faster. By helping to ensure that TFG can operate without interruption, Veeam is contributing to our competitive edge. ”

Edward Woolls

Head of Infrastructure Operations
TFG Infotec

Challenge

Data is a key enabler for targeted marketing at TFG, and the company must keep this information secure at all times. With its data volumes growing by 40% a year, TFG pivoted to a hybrid cloud and DevOps strategy — and searched for a modern data protection solution for the new environment.

Results

- 70% reduction in backup times eliminates impact on production systems
- 40% saving on backup storage reduces data protection costs
- 80% faster data recovery boosts business continuity

Business Challenges

To differentiate itself from the competition, TFG carefully harnesses customer data to shape memorable, personalized experiences across multiple channels.

“We must deliver the right product to the right customer at the right time,” said Edward Woolls, Head of Infrastructure Operations at TFG Infotec. “Data plays an essential role in making this happen, so we take managing and securing this information very seriously. Since our data grows by as much as 40% each year, it’s an ongoing challenge.”

TFG continually optimizes its technology infrastructure to enable it to harness data more effectively. To unlock greater agility, the company recently adopted a containerization and hybrid cloud strategy. With backup jobs overrunning and threatening to affect production systems, TFG initiated a search for a new data protection solution.

“Embracing containers and a hybrid cloud platform helped us improve our ability to respond to changing demands, but we still needed to update our data protection capabilities to avoid interruptions to our operations,” said Woolls.

“With the threat of cyber-attack growing, safeguarding our data has never been more important.”

Edward Woolls

Head of Infrastructure Operations, TFG Infotec





The Veeam Solution

To provide future-proof data protection and enable round-the-clock business continuity for its retail operations, TFG selected Veeam.

“It’s hard to talk about Veeam without sounding like a Veeam salesperson, but it really does deliver on multiple fronts,” said Woolls. “Most important to us was that our analysis showed that Veeam connects best with the latest technologies. The feature set included must-haves for us, such as encryption, immutability and storage compression. In our view, it was the best solution to come with us on our hybrid cloud transformation.”

Currently, TFG uses Veeam to protect approximately 300 TB of production data, with a policy that combines daily, weekly and monthly backups and varying retention periods according to the criticality of the application. The company replicates data

between its two corporate data centers and stores backups on Pure Storage arrays.

“The integration between Veeam and Pure Storage is phenomenal — they work together so seamlessly, you’d expect the technologies to come from the same vendor,” said Woolls. “We’re taking full advantage of how well Veeam and Pure Storage work together to build multiple layers of resilience into our data protection strategy for applications ranging from stock management to point of sales.”

TFG uses Veeam Kasten for Kubernetes to protect its Red Hat OpenShift Kubernetes platform, which consists of 120 namespaces and five clusters. The most critical part of this platform is the company’s application integration engine, which ensures that transactions flow quickly and reliably across all retail and financial services operations.

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“Finding a Kubernetes-native data protection solution was a requirement that was very suddenly thrust upon me and my team, but we soon realized that Kasten was a cut above the rest,” said Woolls. “Kasten performs exceptionally well for a variety of use cases, including application mobility, backup and restore, disaster recovery and ransomware protection.”

Since deploying Veeam, TFG has seen a dramatic increase in data protection efficiency. As a result, the company is making better use of resources while enabling superior omnichannel experiences that keep customers coming back for more.

“Straight away, Veeam slashed backup times by as much as 70%, removing any impact on our production systems,” said Woolls. “So, a 14 TB database that used to take five hours to back up

now takes just 20 minutes with Veeam, for example. Deduplication and storage compression through Veeam have reduced our backup storage use by around 40%, driving down costs significantly. And crucially we can now recover critical systems up to 80% faster. By helping to ensure that TFG can operate without interruption, Veeam is contributing to our competitive edge.”

Next on the agenda, TFG plans to roll out advanced Veeam functionality such as ransomware scanning and recovery orchestration.

“There are so many powerful automation features built into our Veeam solutions that we have yet to implement,” said Woolls. “That’s the next chapter in our Veeam journey, and we’re excited to find out what we’ll achieve together next.”

The Results

70% reduction in backup times eliminates impact on production systems

TFG benefits from comprehensive data protection that does not slow down its key business services, helping to keep employee productivity high.

40% saving on backup storage reduces data protection costs

Using deduplication and storage compression, TFG is optimizing use of resources to do more with less.

80% faster data recovery boosts business continuity

By speeding up data recovery times, TFG is enabling more consistent delivery of outstanding omnichannel experiences, giving it an edge in a crowded market.

About Veeam Software

Veeam, the #1 global market leader in data resilience, believes every business should control all their data whenever and wherever they need it. We're obsessed with creating innovative ways to help our customers achieve data resilience. We do that by offering purpose-built solutions that provide data backup, data recovery, data portability, data security, and data intelligence. Headquartered in Seattle, with offices in more than 30 countries, 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](https://www.linkedin.com/company/veeam-software) and X [@veeam](https://twitter.com/veeam).

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