



"Our true capital is tied up in knowledge and unique production machines. In the event of a calamity, MIMIX HA would save the day, if it ever came to that. The ROI for MIMIX is so tremendous, it cannot be estimated in terms of money only."

Peeter Mastenbroek, IT Manager
Nelipak

Business Profile

Company name:
Nelipak, BV.

Headquarters:
Venray, the Netherlands

Industry:
Packaging

Employees: 400

Business Environment:

- Launched in 1953 when the founder was asked to help relieve the high unemployment in this region of the Netherlands
- Europe's leading thermoformer, with customers and key partners around the world
- Designs, develops and produces a wide variety of thermoformed packages and products for medical, technical and industrial applications in close consultation with customers
- Operates world-class clean rooms and develops its own production tools

Implementation Team:
Rainbow Solutions BV.

Vision Solutions Product:
MIMIX® HA for i5/OS®

Critical Issue

The IT infrastructure is a business-critical component of Nelipak's business strategy. The company's competitive advantage is closely aligned with its world-class R&D division. That and the firm's unique production processing techniques are the true capital components of Nelipak's success. Because the company's know-how is stored on a high performance IBM® server platform, there was a clear need for a high availability (HA) solution.

Results

- Company intellectual property and processes are protected in the event of a system failure.
- Decreased planned downtime by 95 percent and eliminated the backup window.
- Switching can be achieved in four minutes.
- Upgrades and maintenance are performed during regular business hours.
- Requires less than two minutes a day of management.

Technologies

- MIMIX® HA for i5/OS® from Vision Solutions
- Two IBM® System i Model 520 servers
- Eniac Business Solutions® ERP
- Imtech ICT® financial software package
- IBS Consist® HR and Payroll application used by the administrative department

Business Challenge

The Dutch firm Nelipak is known worldwide for its thermoforming expertise, and the company continues to grow its business in Europe and abroad. As the firm's commercial success continued, the growth rate started to raise an alarm bell in the Nelipak IT department. Nelipak's customers are large multinationals that mandate top quality throughout.

"You start asking that question: What if? What if the firm shuts down because of a calamity? What if we lose critical data needed to stay ahead of the competition?" said Peeter Mastenbroek, IT Manager, Nelipak.

"For a medium-sized firm like ours, these issues are a matter of business life and death," said Mastenbroek. "We run an energy-rich production facility. If our energy supply shuts down for some reason, we are in deep trouble. Growing the business without a safety net is simply not an option. The need for a high availability (HA) solution became truly apparent."



Solution

To protect the Nelipak crown jewels from a disaster scenario, Mastenbroek stepped forward and presented an HA solution to the board. Management gave the nod and Mastenbroek went to work.

MIMIX® HA for i5/OS® from Vision Solutions proved to be the perfect fit.

"Nelipak management's top of mind is a secure long-term solution for the firm, and we found that at the right cost with MIMIX," Mastenbroek said. "MIMIX is an easy-to-use, quick-to-implement HA solution. MIMIX delivers RPO and RTO of seconds to minutes with automated switching. And I had a good feeling when we talked through the issues with the experts at Rainbow Solutions, the Vision Solutions business partner. They came to us, a medium-sized firm, as hands-on technology partners who were willing to listen," said Mastenbroek.

When Nelipak planned an HA solution, it upgraded its server platform to two new IBM System i Model 520 machines. The IBM i5 production machine runs the Nelipak ERP solution from Eniac Business Solutions together with Imtech ICT's financial software package. IBS Consist is the HR and Payroll application used by the administrative department.

Vision Solutions' Dutch business partner Rainbow Solutions implemented MIMIX on the IBM platforms. "The MIMIX installation was fantastic. It went so smoothly and so professionally that we felt we were proven right again to have chosen MIMIX. Very professional roadmap, fast alignment of MIMIX and an outstanding team from Rainbow Solutions to support us through the process," noted Mastenbroek.

Shortly after Nelipak installed MIMIX, the production machine did go down because of a software glitch. IBM support and the Nelipak IT team found the flaw overnight and fixed the bug before the morning shift arrived. "There was no anxiety or need to stress out," Mastenbroek explained. "The MIMIX backup was humming nearby and could kick in at any time. That felt extremely good," he said.

Before MIMIX was implemented, Nelipak had a planned downtime of two days a month during off-peak hours. Nelipak can now perform upgrades and maintenance during regular business hours.

"We have decreased planned downtime by 95 percent and eliminated our backup window. And due to MIMIX's self-healing capabilities, managing it costs me less than two minutes a day," Mastenbroek added.

"We switch in four minutes flat. And if there is a little problem, I let MIMIX solve the problem by itself, automatically. That's how fantastic it really is," added Mastenbroek.

"In the future, if ever we have a shutdown, I know we will survive intact. That's what counts in the long-term," he concluded.



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