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Cementing a robust backup system for a world-class Ready-Mix Concrete manufacturer

How Dell Technologies and Uniware helped SCHWING Stetter India Pvt. Ltd. refresh their aging backup system

Experiencing growth over a concrete foundation

As a global manufacturing giant, SCHWING Stetter (India) Private Limited, a 100% subsidiary of the SCHWING Group of Companies, has made significant inroads in the Indian market and expanded its export market worldwide. With one of the largest manufacturing facilities in India, located in Tamil Nadu, SCHWING Stetter India currently employs 4000+ people — both on payroll and on contractual basis.

SCHWING Stetter India's enterprise IT set-up includes multiple enterprise application workloads — all running in virtualized environments enabled by VMware. Throughout their journey in India, Uniware, a best-in-class IT infrastructure product and service provider and platinum partner of Dell Technologies, has been their partner of choice in upgrading their data center infrastructure, including VMware technologies for over a decade.

As a purely manufacturing organization, SCHWING Stetter India's IT requirements are often based on the efficiency of operations. SCHWING Stetter India's lean and effective IT team of just 10 employees is led by their head of Information Technology, Mr. Saravanan Arunachalam. As part of due diligence, for every IT investment made, the company expects optimization of ROI.

Identifying the blisters

In 2019, SCHWING Stetter India began facing issues in its legacy backup system which consisted of Veritas Backup Exec and Quest DR appliance. They were facing an increase in the backup window, failures on VM level backups, the Quest DR appliance was not functioning properly, and they were unable to achieve deduplication due to space issues. This was a considerable challenge as SCHWING Stetter India had 45TB of data (20TB Structured + 25TB Unstructured). They were unable to restore data from the tape library owing to bad sector formation and were keen to move away from tape backups.

They had to manage by taking fragmented backups and run the risk of not being able to give full restoration to users properly. This may lead to the integrity of the backup data getting compromised, and loss of data could have a significant impact on company operations. Also, as part of its best practice compliance, SCHWING Stetter India intends to keep its backup data up-to-date and be ready for an audit at all times. With these issues at the surface, it was clear that SCHWING Stetter India needed a new and robust disk-based backup system.

Engraving the proposed solution

For a large manufacturer, having a core backup is necessary, but not enough. This is why SCHWING Stetter India wanted to upgrade to a single backup solution that would integrate all of their applications, mail and file servers, running on VMware environment on multiple physical servers across remote offices, and a few select desktops and laptops across the IT environment.

A typical legacy backup system has a backup server, the software, the switch, and the target device. SCHWING Stetter India evaluated multiple backup solutions from competitor OEMs along with the Dell Data Protection software solution but many of them fell short of expectations.

The expert analysis and solution sizing ability of Dell Technologies, and Uniware's prior expertise in the deployment of Dell Data Protection solutions coupled with a consultative approach helped develop the best business outcome for SCHWING Stetter India's present and future needs.

The proposed solution was a robust, all-inclusive, and multifaceted backup hardware and software system — the Dell EMC IDPA 4400. The new backup system

"I was certain that disk-based backup solutions can greatly benefit our organization. After assessing multiple options, we realized that Dell EMC IDPA 4400 was the right fit for our environment. With the support from Dell Technologies and Uniware teams, we have a solution that has improved the system efficiency, greatly enhanced the backup process, and made us future-ready."

Saravanan Arunachalam
Head - Information Technology
SCHWING Stetter India

"An up-to-date backup system in any organization is a key component of meeting compliance regulations. For a massive organization like SCHWING Stetter India, missing even the smallest compliance can have an adverse impact on their business operations. This is why it was important for us to understand the customer's requirements as deeply as possible and run as many tests as possible beforehand, where we can identify the issues our customers are facing, implement the best solution accordingly, and cover all compliance norms."

Ripu Bajwa

Director & GM - Data Protection Solutions
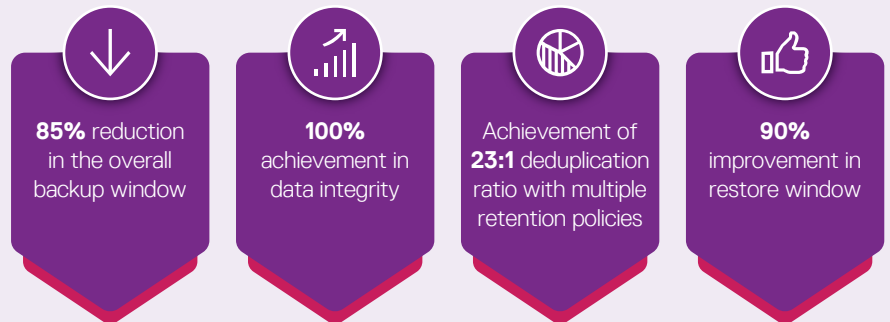Dell Technologies

A new and polished backup system

The implementation of the new backup solution began in August 2018 and the whole process was completed within two weeks. This was only made possible because of the prior steps taken to understand the requirements and deploy the solution exactly as SCHWING Stetter India required. The implementation partner, Uniware, also gave up-to-date knowledge transfers and thorough training with inputs on the design of the backup policy.

With the new backup solution in place, SCHWING Stetter India has been able to eliminate a significant amount of costs and overheads in its backup system. With the tech refresh and the implementation of Dell EMC IDPA 4400, the IT team at SCHWING Stetter India can handle multiple processes simultaneously with a single appliance with ease of use as never experienced before.

The plug-and-play quality, flexibility, high-availability guarantee, outward integration with cloud storage, and top-notch integration with VMware are some of its major advantages. Another superior feature of the backup system is that if there is a failure at the DC, this solution allows their virtual machines to operate at a good capacity too.

Post-deployment scenarios are outlined below:

85% reduction in the overall backup window

100% achievement in data integrity

Achievement of **23:1** deduplication ratio with multiple retention policies

90% improvement in restore window

had 3 main goals:

- To aggressively reduce the backup window
- To move away from tape backups, and
- To configure VM, file, and exchange backup to the new backup system

Furthermore, the Dell EMC IDPA 4400 can be managed for any application or database (Windows, Linux, etc.).

Fixing the cracks

Initially, the Uniware team did a live optics assessment on the existing backup system to quantify and assess the current backup situation at SCHWING Stetter India. To calculate this further, the Uniware team also did a study of data from the past 90 days to check on daily and weekly backups. Based on this assessment, the software solution was designed.

With this analysis in hand, the deployment began in the data center (DC) at

Sriperumbudur, Chennai. The solution deployed at the data-recovery (DR) site in Cheyyar, Tamil Nadu was a combination of Dell EMC Avamar Data Protection Software and Dell EMC Data Domain DD6300.

The road ahead to a fine finish

The implementation of the long-term backup solution has proven to be a success. SCHWING Stetter India is now able to do timely backups, with all compliances in place and there has not been a single instance where they faced any issues while taking a backup or restoring their backed-up data.

This has further positioned Dell Technologies and Uniware to stay ahead of the competition when it comes to consulting with SCHWING Stetter India for any future backup requirements that may arise — reinforcing the superiority of the backup infrastructure that Dell has been able to provide for their customers.

"Before we implemented the backup solution for SCHWING Stetter India, we did an extensive test of their 90-day data to understand their backup issues. We were able to examine results on a daily and weekly metric. This allowed us to accurately pinpoint where their previous backup infrastructure was lagging and therefore allowed us to recommend the best possible solution — the Dell EMC IDPA 4400."

KR Vergis

Chief Executive Officer
Uniware Systems

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