



Objective

Create a disaster control centre

Approach

Comprehensive solution from HPE which enables Okaz Organization for Press and Publication to continue its business from the disaster control centre

IT Matters

- Use the flagship 3PAR system which is considered to be the fastest solution available on the market
- If the head office experiences a problem the system will automatically transfer business data to the recovery building using a fail-over process
- Provide 12 new Gen9 servers with comprehensive computing abilities and fast processing units

Business Matters

- Staff will be able to continue their work without noticeable interruption
- Data will be maintained in the event of any damage to the original copies
- An optimum service will be offered for reading the newspapers published

Okaz Organization for Press and Publication sets up disaster recovery centre

HPE helps leading media company deal with disasters and protect its data



Challenge

Threat of disasters

Okaz Organization for Press and Publication is a leading media company in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf. It publishes a group of newspapers including Okaz, one of the most widely read newspapers in Saudi Arabia; the Saudi Gazette, an English-language newspaper, and the daily sports-focused newspaper, Al-Nadi. The company also has an online section, Okaz Digital Electronic Publishing, which includes the Ain Al-Youm online newspaper and store, as well as a channel on YouTube and Okaz Production Office.

To ensure a resilient IT and business environment, Okaz Organization for Press and Publication decided to set up a separate centre to deal with natural or technological disasters which could impact its head office. Khaled Al Harbi, IT manager for Okaz Organization for Press and Publication says: "Our goal is to use state-of-the-art technology to provide the best service to our readers. We also strive to stay ahead of our competitors by being pioneers of modern technology.

"We decided to set up a dedicated centre to counteract any disasters that might affect our head office and that would enable us to continue running the business without a long interruption."

Case study

Okaz Organization for
Press and Publication

Industry

Media and publishing

“Thanks to this project we will be able to quickly continue working in the event of the head office experiencing any kind of disaster. Staff will be able to reach the recovery centre in under an hour, which will allow various departments, including editing, distribution and advertising, to continue working without noticeable disruption.”

– Khaled Al Harbi, IT manager, Okaz Organization for Press and Publication

“We also wanted the centre to hold a backup of the organisation’s data which will soon include a full digital archive of all the issues going back around fifty years, representing the heritage of Okaz Organization for Press and Publication.”

The company decided to site the disaster control building in King Abdullah Economic City because of the city’s importance as the leading economic area in Saudi Arabia as well as its proximity to the company’s headquarters in Jeddah. Al Harbi explains: “Staff will be able to reach the disaster control centre in King Abdullah Economic City to continue the business in no more than an hour.

“The disaster control centre houses a miniature version of the head office. A number of employees work there permanently, including an office manager, an advertising manager and a distribution manager. There will also be an IT team on-site in both offices. We wanted to use the best possible technology to ensure the success of this project so we chose Hewlett Packard Enterprise to implement it.”

Solution**Best technology available**

Explaining the reasons for their choice, Al Harbi says: “HPE has offered solutions to Okaz Organization for Press and Publication for ten years and we have an excellent relationship with them. We are impressed by their unique after-sales services and their support team was very helpful during the negotiations and after signing the agreement. HPE offered a lot of choices and solutions which helped us to select what we needed and HPE Technology Services stood out from the competition because of the speed of their bid submission, the speed of implementation and the high quality of the products, programs and support.”

If the head office should experience any problems, the system will automatically failover the business data to the disaster recovery building without alerting the end-users. Twelve new HPE BL460 Gen9 servers will provide high-speed computing performance and 24 virtual machines will be created.

Case study

Industry

Okaz Organization for Press and Publication
Media and publishing

Customer at a glance

Hardware

- HPE BL460 Gen9 servers
- HPE 3PAR 8200 StoreServ System
- HPE MSA P2000 G3 Modular Smart Array storage system

Software

- HPE OneView
- VMware v6.0
- Microsoft® Windows® server 2003 – 2008 – 2012
- Microsoft Exchange server

HPE services

- HPE Proactive Care Support

These machines incorporate automatic replication systems and capabilities to deal with data storage errors and virtual machines. This is in addition to the HPE OneView platform for monitoring and reporting.

Okaz Organization for Press and Publication also selected the Proactive Care Support service through which HPE provides enhanced services to ensure the high availability of a healthy, reliable infrastructure.

One of the fastest storage solutions currently available on the market, the HPE 3PAR StoreServ Storage system, has also been approved. The head office has been updated to use HPE 3PAR as well as the HPE MSA P2000 G3 Modular Smart Array storage system. These will enable the data to be copied without any intervention from the servers because the machines communicate directly with each other to carry out tasks. HPE 3PAR also offers numerous features including the cancellation of redundant data.

The project has taken six months from the date of submitting the purchase order to the final testing stage.

Benefit

Business continuity within one hour

This project helps Okaz Organization for Press and Publication provide a better service to its readers by enabling business continuity should the company's head office experience a catastrophe. In addition, the project ensures the safety of the publishing house's rich data archive.

Al Harbi comments: "This project helps us provide a better service to our readers, both those who buy the printed newspapers and those who use our online service via Okaz Digital.

"Thanks to this project staff will be able to reach the recovery centre in no more than one hour. This will enable various departments including editing, distribution and advertising, to continue working without noticeable disruption as the newspaper can be edited and its pdf files can be prepared for printing anywhere."

The new centre will also include a complete backup copy of the archives going back around 50 years to protect the data should anything happen to the main copy.

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4AA6-5305EEW, June 2016