

# OVERPELT MUNICIPALITY

## Overpelt municipal services work more efficiently thanks to central storage



### ESSENTIALS

#### Overpelt Municipality

Overpelt is situated in the Flemish region of North Limburg. There are about 130 people working for the municipal services and about 60 of them use computers.

#### Business challenge

Originally the IT infrastructure was built around stand-alone servers, with each application having a separate server. This infrastructure gradually grew into a maze, which was difficult to manage.

#### EMC Solution

Two replicated Celerra NX4s, three ESX servers VMware vSphere 4 Enterprise

#### Key Benefits

Thanks to the centralised virtual storage Overpelt can now work in a much more flexible way and the availability has increased significantly.

Overpelt is situated in the Flemish region of North Limburg. The municipality borders Hechtel-Eksel, Lommel, Neerpelt and Peer. Overpelt has a surface area of 4084.72 hectares and about 14000 inhabitants. There are about 130 people working for the municipal services and about 60 of them use computers.

### CHALLENGES

All the municipal services are located on one physical LAN, which runs from the town hall to places such as the police station, the library, the nursery, the cultural centre and the sports hall. Originally the IT infrastructure was built around stand-alone servers, with each application having a separate server. This infrastructure gradually grew into a maze, which was difficult to manage. So in 2004 Overpelt switched to EMC VMware. "We were also using these virtual systems on a local host, so that the infrastructure was still cluttered," says Mario Van Gestel, system administrator at Overpelt municipality. "But having an IT infrastructure that is reliable and managed efficiently is very important to us because there are all kinds of data – such as the accounting and the minutes of the town council – that we have to store for years and be able to retrieve quickly if necessary. That's why we decided to centralise the storage and make it redundant. After all, our systems and data should always be available, otherwise we cannot work."

### EMC SOLUTION

Overpelt contacted about five potential IT partners with the question of a solution to centralised storage. 3-IT was the only one that offered EMC technology. "EMC was by far the best, in terms of technology and the price-quality ratio," says Jan Vermeulen. "So our decision to opt for EMC technology was easily made. The difference in price with the other option was no less than 40 percent. So it shows that EMC technology is also within the reach of smaller organisations."

3-IT ensured a fast migration to the new storage environment. The IT partner installed equipment including two replicated Celerra NX4s, three ESX servers VMware vSphere 4 Enterprise, and it configured the switches. In a second phase, 3-IT installed Microsoft Active Directory and the file servers were migrated to virtual machines on the Celerra NX4.

"A storage system never exists in isolation," says Dominik Verrydt of 3-IT. "Our knowledge of the entire IT infrastructure, with all its components, determined the success of this project. The migration was completed in April 2010."

## RESULTS

Thanks to the centralised virtual storage Overpelt can now work in a much more flexible way and the availability has increased significantly. “The whole environment is much faster. We no longer have to worry about anything,” says Jan Vermeulen. “If we need more capacity we can add some immediately and without any disruption. This is important because our storage needs are growing rapidly, especially because of the large number of e-mails. Storage capacity itself has become so cheap that we don’t filter what we may or may not want to store in the long term. So we have access to a storage space of 3 TB and an additional 7.2 TB for back-up on SATA disks.”

**“Thanks to the increased availability all the PC users can work more efficiently and the people of Overpelt receive an even better service.”**

JAN VERMEULEN, ICT MANAGER OVERPELT MUNICIPALITY

Now if there is something wrong with one of the current hardware servers, then it is quick and easy to start up the virtual servers running on it on a different ESX host. Moreover, disaster recovery is also provided, thanks to the second Celerra that runs at an external physical location. Meanwhile, 3-IT has transferred the management of the new IT infrastructure to the IT staff of the Overpelt municipality.

“The management interface is very user-friendly,” says Jan Vermeulen. “We received hands-on training from 3-IT and now we can do the management ourselves without any problems. Of course, we can always go to 3-IT if we have any specific questions. Anyway, we can carry on for years with our new environment. Thanks to the increased availability all the PC users can work more efficiently and the people of Overpelt receive an even better service – which is after all our ultimate aim.”

## CONTACT US

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