

## Alpine Bau GmbH



### Building a Cost-effective Remote Site Backup Strategy for one of Europe's Leading Construction Companies

**Alpine Bau's construction projects are built to last for centuries. And so too is its data, now that the company uses Veritas NetBackup PureDisk™ software from Symantec™ to protect up to 14 terabytes of data across 100 remote construction sites and offices. But it's not any old data protection solution. Taking advantage of deduplication technology, PureDisk reduces the size of Alpine Bau's Windows and Linux backups before any data even leaves the sites—by a factor of 3.4. The centrally managed solution—chosen after a detailed proof of concept which included EMC—has reduced the daily backup operation from four hours to 15 minutes. Altogether, it's saving the company \$91,000 annually in reduced resources, improved productivity, and the elimination of local backup hardware.**

#### ORGANIZATION PROFILE

One of Europe's leading construction companies, providing building construction, road construction and constructional engineering, and tunneling and foundation engineering services.

#### INDUSTRY

Construction

#### SOLUTION

Backup and Recovery  
Disaster Recovery

#### One of Europe's Leading Construction Companies

What do the Meridien Hotel in Vienna, the Ningbo to Shengzhou Expressway in China, and the Gotthard Base Tunnel in Switzerland all have in common? They are all the product of Alpine Bau GmbH, one of Europe's leading construction companies. Alpine's projects embrace the entire spectrum of construction work, including building construction, road construction and constructional engineering, and tunneling and foundation engineering. The company is primarily focused on the Central European countries, although its business interests extend to the neighboring Eastern European countries and onwards to Turkey and China.

The challenge facing Alpine Bau was all to do with data protection. The company operates a network of more than 100 offices and construction sites in 10 European countries and, although the data residing in each of these offices was protected, the policies and processes surrounding the way data was secured needed to change. Until recently, Alpine Bau was relying on rsync low bandwidth connections to replicate content from its remote Linux servers. The rsync solution synchronized files and directories from the Linux servers in the remote locations to headquarters in Salzburg, Austria while minimizing data transfer Windows.

The Microsoft Windows servers meanwhile were protected by local tape drives. One of the problems here was that the life span of the tape drives at the remote sites was limited owing to the poor environmental conditions at the construction sites, such as dust ingest and the man-handling of the technology. The outcome being that if the drives didn't work—the backup wasn't done. To compound the situation, there were no options at these remote sites to vault tapes or keep multiple generations of the data. Overall, the backup operation required a considerable amount of effort with limited success rates.

**“NetBackup PureDisk has the capability to cope with low bandwidth connections and does not require local backup hardware. It supports a broad array of operating systems and integrates tightly with our existing deployment of Veritas NetBackup.”**

#### Christian Zanner

Manager, Information &  
Technology Department  
Alpine Bau

Leading European construction company reduces remote site backup volumes by a factor of 3.4 with Veritas NetBackup PureDisk software from Symantec.

**“The streamlined backup administration means we can save the equivalent of half of one FTE. That’s a saving of about \$55,000 every year. When you add in the cost saving from the elimination of the tape drives...the total annual saving using PureDisk is about \$91,000.”**

**Christian Zanner**

Manager, Information & Technology Department  
Alpine Bau

Christian Zanner, manager in the Information & Technology department at Alpine Bau explains the practical difficulties of this approach to data protection. “The previous approach demanded a significant amount of resources,” he says. “It took up to four hours each day to complete the backup owing to the large amount of data—set up and configuration alone took one of the team an hour. Of course, we also needed to maintain the backup hardware at each site.”

### Support for a Broad Array of Operating Systems

He goes on to reveal why the company chose the Veritas NetBackup PureDisk software from Symantec. “Alpine chose Symantec over an EMC Avamar solution because of the client side deduplication,” he says. “NetBackup PureDisk has the capability to cope with low bandwidth connections and does not require local backup hardware. It supports a broad array of operating systems and integrates tightly with our existing deployment of Veritas NetBackup.”

Working with a leading Austrian Symantec partner Quorum Consulting GmbH, Alpine Bau has deployed NetBackup PureDisk Remote Office Edition version 6.5 to protect the 100 remote offices and construction sites in 10 countries, ranging from 65 sites in Austria, 24 in Germany, and four in The Czech Republic. Up to 105 HP Windows 2003, Redhat Linux, and SUSE Linux servers are currently integrated and centrally backed up to the headquarter in Salzburg leveraging wide area network (WAN) connections ranging from 128kB ASDL to six megabytes synchronous. Across these locations, PureDisk protects approximately 14 terabytes of front-end (or source) data each day. The plan is for the number of servers to increase to as many as 150 clients in due course.

Using data deduplication at the source of the backups, Veritas NetBackup PureDisk is reducing the size of the construction giant’s backups before any data even leaves the remote sites. These smaller volumes of deduplicated data then need significantly less network bandwidth for their transfer to the data center in Salzburg where they are stored centrally.

## SOLUTION AT A GLANCE

### Business Drivers

- Protect construction site and remote office data
- Reduce the cost and complexity of managing local storage

### Technology Challenges

- Overcome lack of on-site IT support at remote sites
- Eliminate manual, high-risk approach to remote site backup

### Solution

Storage and bandwidth optimized data protection for remote site environment

### Symantec Products

- Veritas NetBackup PureDisk 6.5
- Veritas NetBackup 6.5.2

### Technology Environment

- Servers: 105 servers, across three PureDisk nodes
- Operating systems: Redhat Linux, SUSE Linux, and Microsoft Windows 2003
- Database: Oracle and SQL Server
- Applications: SAP, Microsoft Exchange, Microsoft Sharepoint

### Symantec Services

- Essential Support

### Symantec Partner

- Quorum Consulting GmbH

**“With NetBackup in the data center here in Salzburg and NetBackup PureDisk for remote sites, Alpine Bau has the best of both worlds. NetBackup gives us the rock-solid data center stability and availability—and PureDisk reduces the size of our backups before any data even leaves the remote sites and arrives at the data center. Together, they’re the ideal combination.”**

**Christian Zanner**

Manager, Information & Technology  
Department  
Alpine Bau

Since the deployment went live earlier this year, Alpine Bau has experienced a transformation in its data protection strategy. Altogether, up to 5.5 terabytes are stored using NetBackup PureDisk with a data reduction factor of 3.4. There are no drawbacks when it comes to backing up large multi-gigabyte files, and the browser-based operation offers easy, unified policy management of the Linux and Windows servers. The news is just as good when it comes to productivity. The daily backup operation has been reduced from four hours to 15 minutes, setup and configuration has been reduced from one hour to 10 minutes. And of course, Alpine Bau no longer needs to maintain costly and maintenance-intensive backup hardware at the sites. Currently all operations are managed centrally while in the future some operations may be delegated to local support and admin staff.

## BUSINESS VALUE AND TECHNICAL BENEFITS

### Cost saving

- Saved up to \$91,000 annually through improved use of resources and elimination of remote site hardware

### Data protection

- Provide a reliable, easy-to-manage and low bandwidth backup and recovery solution for remote sites
- Offered easy, unified policy management of the Linux and Windows servers

### Efficiency

- Reduced the total storage consumed from the backups by a factor of 3.4 using deduplication
- Cut the daily backup operation from four hours to 15 minutes
- Reduced site setup and configuration from one hour to 10 minutes

### Compliance

- Helped meet rigorous demands for compliance and data protection

### PureDisk Saves the Company About \$91,000 Annually

“Besides all the benefits associated with deduplication and improved productivity, Alpine Bau is saving a significant amount of money using Veritas NetBackup PureDisk,” says Christian Zanner. “The streamlined backup administration means we can save the equivalent of half of one full-time equivalent (FTE) employee’s time. That’s a saving of about \$55,000 every year. When you add in the cost saving from the elimination of the tape drives—itsself a saving of \$36,000—the total annual saving using PureDisk is about \$91,000.”

There is also a compliance advantage to using Veritas NetBackup PureDisk. For legal reasons, Alpine Bau is required to retain documentation associated with their construction sites for a long period of time, such as photography of the construction development and progress documentation. In the past, there was a genuine risk that this data might have been lost when the backups were not undertaken at the remote sites. Today that data is securely protected for as long as Alpine Bau deems suitable.

“With NetBackup in the data center here in Salzburg and NetBackup PureDisk for remote sites, Alpine Bau has the best of both worlds. NetBackup gives us the rock-solid data center stability and availability—and PureDisk reduces the size of our backups before any data even leaves the remote sites and arrives at the data center. Together, they’re the ideal combination,” says Christian Zanner.