



Case Study

Warehouse High Availability Cluster/SAN

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With the expansion of their business premises and a new warehouse recently built, **Portmeirion Potteries Ltd** needed a secure, reliable, high availability solution for their warehouse data management.



Who: Portmeirion Potteries Ltd
Where: Stoke-on-Trent
Why: High Availability Storage
Kit: IBM DS4700 Fibre SAN
2 x x3850 Servers
Ref: PortSANStokev.rev4.1

Company Overview

Portmeirion Group PLC is a British Group based in Stoke-on-Trent and listed on the Alternative Investment Market of the London Stock Exchange. A significant force in the homewares industry, Portmeirion has a strong international following and an established reputation for high quality and innovative design. Portmeirion markets and manufactures an extensive range of high quality tableware, cookware and giftware. Its product ranges include ceramics, glassware, textiles, place mats, trays and candles.



“We get a 1st class service from Systems (Assurance), they’re reliable and we trust them”

Simon Brayford, IT Manager, Portmeirion Potteries Ltd

Case Study Brief

Business Requirements

Portmeirion Pottery is sold by a wide spectrum of high quality speciality shops and department stores in the U.K. and abroad.

Due to an increase in the demand and a desire to improve customer service the company decided to expand their business premises.

The major necessity arising from the expansion was a new high availability database management server at their newly built warehouse linked into their systems at head office.

Another concern was uptime. With deliveries and despatches pretty much happening around the clock in real time, Zero downtime was essential.

The company was keen to introduce a cost-effective method for both issues that would be fast, reliable and allow for future enhancements.

The Requirements

- High Availability Servers
- Maximum Uptime even during power outages.
- Secure, fast centralised Data management
- Complete failsafe systems with maximum speed
- Reliable and adaptable to keep pace with future demands
- Eliminate offsite back up costs

The Technology

- Latest IBM x3850 Clustered Servers
- IBM DS4700 Fibre Optic SAN Storage Array
- Powerware 9120 UPS
- Ms Windows 2003 Server
- Ms SQL Server 2003
- Adaptec Snap Servers

The Benefits

- Maximum availability
- Fully load balanced solution with maximum redundancy
- Secure, fast off-site backups
- Full protection even in power outages
- Maximum throughput and reliability

Systems' Solution

A team of our consultants explored various options whilst taking into account all Portmeirion's concerns.

After considerable analysis a pair of IBM x3850 servers set up as an Active/Passive cluster solutions was selected and implemented.

The IBM DS4700 fibre SAN Storage Array module was configured providing a reliable, redundant storage area network. Utilising fibre connectivity this separated general network traffic and further implementing dual switches provided the redundancy. With an active/passive cluster utilising Windows Server 2003 Enterprise and a SAN raid 5 technology, current systems should be able to provide 99.9% availability.