

# Case Study



## Leading carpet manufacturer implement virtualised server solution to ensure scalability and DR capabilities

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**Nadeem Ahmed, Senior Systems Administrator, Ryalux**

### Company Background

The Ryalux Group are a company which have, since their start, set themselves apart from their competition by offering a unique and personal service. Offering a colour matching service together with the choice of any widths has established Ryalux as the UK's most innovative carpet manufacturer.

Aiming to provide the highest possible standards throughout every part of the business, Ryalux have grown into a very successful, vertically integrated company. They employ over 325 staff across 6 sites in Lancashire and West Yorkshire.

### The Challenge

Like many organisations Ryalux understands the growing importance of reliable network services such as email and other primary applications to maintain their business operations. With the growing demand on systems and data, Ryalux recognised the need to simplify the management of the network infrastructure, using the known improvements that a virtualised server solution would bring.

The server solution would provide Ryalux with a reliable storage platform to support their current service requirements such as file/print data, SQL, and Exchange as well as other smaller systems and applications.

Disaster Recovery was of vital importance to Ryalux and so a fully resilient network infrastructure was paramount to allow data to be replicated between sites in Wakefield and Rochdale. Ryalux also needed to address the use of traditional tape back-ups, which were both time consuming and had an unacceptably high recovery point.

The solution also needed the scalability to grow with the demands of the organisation over the coming years. Ease of management was also essential to Ryalux.

### The Solution

Ryalux chose to work with ANS Group, a VMWare Gold Authorized Consultant, to provide a solution to stabilise and enhance their current storage requirements.

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ANS Group recommended that Ryalux invest in 2 Dell EqualLogic iSCSI SAN's, to replicate data between the Wakefield and Rochdale sites, which provide real time data protection, by replicating designated volumes between Data Centres. Ryalux decided to run the iSCSI SAN's on VMWare Enterprise 3.5, in order to ensure ease of migration should servers on any site go down or a disaster occur. By virtualising the total storage array the data can be automatically load balanced and optimised, providing both snapshots and replication of data, with instant restore and cloning capabilities.

### Business Benefits

The project was completed on time and within budget. It met all of Ryalux initial requirements of a stabilised storage platform allowing for scalability in line with Ryalux growth. The installation enabled Ryalux to take advantage of the following:-

- 5 – 10 minutes provisioning of new Virtual Machines.
- Zero downtime for hardware maintenance.
- 2 – 5 minutes to move servers to optimise workloads with no service interruption.
- Complete recovery in less than 4 hours in the event of a disaster.
- Decrease administration costs by simplifying and automating labour intensive IT operations.
- Consolidate Hardware to reduce operating and support costs.
- High Availability of all servers via automatic restart in the case of server failure.

Nadeem Ahmed, Senior Systems Administrator at Ryalux commented, “I would like to let you now how pleased I am with the completed work. It has excelled all of my expectations, particularly with the great piece of mind it has given me knowing all of Ryalux’ business critical applications and data would be safe in the event of a disaster at any of our six sites.

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