StorageCraft®

OneBlox delivers data integrity to LK Shields

Client Profile

LK SHIELDS
YOUR LEGAL COUNSEL

Company

LK Shields

Country

Ireland

Services

Corporate and commercial law firm

Employees

140

Solution

StorageCraft Oneblox 4312

Leading legal firm chooses **OneBlox** as the smart option for future proofing its storage and enhancing its business continuity and data protection.

Introduction

Given the fast-paced nature of the legal world, data availability, security and integrity, as well as business continuity, are among the top priorities for IT professionals; this brings storage and disaster recovery at the forefront of their agenda.

LK Shields are a leading Irish corporate and commercial law firm with offices in Dublin, London and Galway with 75+ professional staff. Their clients are enterprising Irish and international businesses, financial institutions and public bodies.

They provide partner driven, accessible and decisive input. Their lawyers combine their depth of legal knowledge with their commercial experience to deliver business solutions to complex legal issues.

LK Shields have excellent relations with many of the world's leading law firms with whom they regularly partner on the Irish aspects of international transactions. Their legal teams are highly recommended by industry ranking publications Legal 500, Chambers and Partners IFLR1000 and Who's Who Legal.

LK Shields recognizes technology as an important business enabler, to provide the highest quality legal advice and representation to their customers. Consequently, Irene Heffernan, IT Manager at LK Shields, invests into best of breed solutions to support the practice's goals and objectives.

The business challenges

LK Shields expect to have prompt access to all of their files at any time, regardless of whether the data was imported several years back or just seconds ago. Business continuity is top of mind for Irene and her team. She explains: "It is a very busy practice, with a staff of 140, keeping the lights on is paramount. Being "down" for any length of time would have serious financial repercussions.

Another challenge Irene is facing is the exponential and ever increasing amounts of data the practice has to store.

> 66 The big challenge here is to ensure that we have enough storage for what we need today but that this can be scaled as our business (and data) grows. However, while doing this we don't want to have a high expenditure on storage that won't be utilized for a number of years. 99
>
> **- Irene Heffernan, IT Manager at LK Shields**

In addition, given the nature of LK Shields business, data is "Mission Critical". So ensuring that this is completely protected is a key priority.

So Irene was looking for a storage solution that would solve the equation of managing, protecting, and delivering round-the-clock access to the ever-growing amount of data in a secure and cost-effective manner.

The solution

Working with their service provider Paradyn, LK Shields evaluated a number of options before choosing StorageCraft OneBlox. 4312, as a backup target, deployed at the Dublin office.

The innovative object storage backend enables multiple copies of the same data, avoiding limits and constraints imposed by traditional RAID protection schemes. This feature, associated with granular block level inline deduplication increases the storage utilization of the system when it comes to data footprint reduction and protection.

The scale-out architecture of OneBlox enables significant growth by just adding additional drives or additional OneBlox to the Ring at any given time. And when a new OneBlox is added, there is no configuration required and data is automatically rebalanced across the Ring to further improve data placement and enabling faster recovery times in case of failures. Commodity off-the-shelf disk drives are supported and thanks to all these mechanisms, performance improves alongside capacity and availability.

In addition, OneBlox offers an extra layer of data protection for LK Shields with its continuous data protection (CDP) capability. The OneBlox CDP feature takes immutable snapshots automatically every 10 seconds for the first hour, then on an hourly, daily, weekly and monthly basis. Should a ransomware attack occur, encrypting the data and corrupting the primary file system, the snapshots are completely unaffected, immune from any modification or deletion. The ability to take such granular snapshots at 10-second intervals is critical to ensure recovery of the latest version of the data. Unlike legacy RAID-based volume snapshots, Irene can easily recover individual file, folder or complete network share.

> 66 OneBlox is ticking a lot of boxes for us: firstly, its scale out storage, scaling from a few TBs to PBs. The beauty is that you only buy what you need today – so no falling into the over (or under) provisioning trap.
>
> And it's so easy to set up – we are talking about minutes. 99
>
> **Larry Doyle**
> Head of MSP at Paradyn

The benefits

With more than 20TB of storage deployed, Irene has all 3 locations backups stored and protected by OneBlox; she can now respond to any business request concerning storage capacity by simply adding additional disk drives, non-disruptively, to the existing OneBlox 4312.

StorageCraft's object-based scale-out architecture is far more resilient and efficient than any traditional RAID configuration. Both initial and ongoing infrastructure costs are kept to a minimum due to the unique characteristics of StorageCraft's bring your own drive support. Irene is free to use commodity hard drives in nearly any configuration.

Furthermore, with StorageCraft's architecture, there are no unpleasant financial surprises the next time the firm needs additional storage. With commodity disk drive prices declining year over year, LK Shields will always enjoy lower Euro/TB pricing over time thanks to the availability of ever bigger and cheaper disks. This eliminates the historically unpleasant rising staircase effect that legacy storage vendors often impose on customers.

Conclusion

The unpredictable capacity requirements for data combined with the high standards for availability and security put a significant amount of pressure on Irene and her team.

Thanks to StorageCraft OneBlox and OneSystem, much of this stress is alleviated. The solution requires very little configuration and the intuitive and user-friendly OneSystem allows for simple management of the OneBlox appliance. The scale-out architecture, along with its focus on high availability and built-in data protection and recovery mechanisms, make it an ideal storage solution for Irene to better support LK Shields business expansion.

StorageCraft

Learn More
StorageCraft.com

Contact
sales@storagecraft.eu

More Case Studies
StorageCraft.com/Resources