

Case Study

POINT Storage Manager **Diakonie Südwestfalen**



Diakonie 
in Südwestfalen

Before implementing PoINT Storage Manager, Diakonie in Südwestfalen stored medical data on hard disks. Even though the data was protected by WORM, the archives were used for storing application data without any further archiving functionalities. Moreover, as the storage medium was relatively short-lived, frequent migrations were necessary,

with the corresponding costs for new hardware components. With PoINT Storage Manager – Archive Edition Diakonie in Südwestfalen introduced a two-tier storage architecture and now performs rule-based and legally compliant archiving of files on the cost-efficient and long-lived storage medium tape.

Challenge

- Reduction of hardware costs
- Decoupling of primary and archive storage
- Seamless data access for end users
- Reduced frequency of high-volume migrations

Solution - PoINT Storage Manager

- Replacement of hard disk-based redundant storage
- Introduction of a two-tier hierarchical storage management architecture
- Automated archiving to the archive tier
- Integration of two LTO-8 tape libraries for long-term archiving

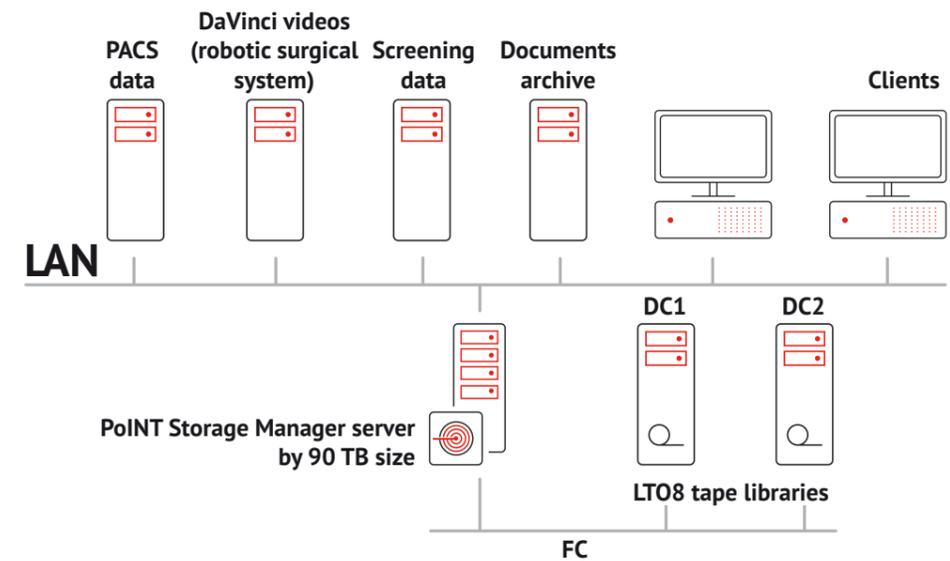
Benefits

- Systematic separation of primary storage tier and archive tier
- Manufacturer and technology independent
- Tape as a durable and cost-efficient archive storage medium
- Retention management and WORM protection at the archive storage tier
- Future-proof and investment protection through scalability

About Diakonie Südwestfalen gGmbH

Diakonie in Südwestfalen, headquartered in Siegen, is the largest health and social service provider in the three-border region of North Rhine-Westphalia, Hesse and Rhineland-Palatinate. From birth to the end of life, it is there for people who are sick and in need of help and care. With 4,000 employees, the company is a major employer in around 120 facilities at more than 40 locations in the region. Every year, 100,000 people are treated, nursed and cared for here. As

a professional service provider, Diakonie in Südwestfalen links numerous diagnostic, therapeutic, rehabilitation and nursing units. These include hospitals, medical care centers, homes for the elderly, outpatient nursing services along with a meal service, a daycare center for children, outpatient rehabilitation centers, residential homes for people with disabilities, assistance for homeless people, a hospice, various counseling centers and its own nursing training center.



Diakonie in Südwestfalen gGmbH stores, among others, medical data from surgical robots, from X-ray PACS, mammography screening and documents. To secure access to this data against hardware failure and loss, the institution used a metrocluster of hard disks. On the hard disks, the data was additionally WORM protected to prevent changes. However, more extensive archiving functionalities for long-term storage of the data were not provided. In addition, the lifetime of the hard disks used was relatively short in relation to the prescribed retention periods, so that migrations of high data volumes had to be carried out regularly. The Diakonie was therefore looking for a more cost-efficient solution that would better meet the requirements and retention periods in the archive area.

The choice was made for the Archive Edition of PoINT Storage Manager. Redundant storage on hard disks was replaced by a two-tier storage architecture with primary and archive storage tier. PoINT Storage Manager performs file-based tiering and automatically moves older files to the archive storage tier based on policies. On the one hand, this relieves the primary storage and, on the other hand, it provides the required functionalities for legally compliant archiving for the archived files. Thus, the integrated retention management ensures compliance with retention periods, and the WORM functionality of PoINT Storage Manager protects the files against modification.

On the archive tier, tape is used. As a durable and cost-efficient storage medium, it is particularly suitable for long-term archiving. While alternative solutions operate exclusively disk-based, PoINT Storage Manager allows the seamless integration of tape. In the case of Diakonie in Südwestfalen, two LTO 8 libraries with 25 tapes each are used in the archive tier. Thus, the software helps to reduce the frequency of archive migrations and to achieve considerable savings with regard to storage hardware.

The migration of the legacy archives from hard disks to the new tape-based archive was also carried out reliably with PoINT Storage Manager and in close cooperation with PoINT Support. With the support of PoINT Support, not only a seamless data migration could be performed, but also problems which had not been considered before could be detected and solved.

Hans-Georg Ommer, Head of Technical IT at Diakonie in Südwestfalen gGmbH, is very satisfied with the introduction and use of PoINT Storage Manager: "In addition to expanding from one archive (PACS) to four archives, we were able to decouple applications and archiving. We now have more functions available for archiving. For future extensions we remain flexible into all directions with PoINT Storage Manager."

About PoINT

PoINT Software & Systems GmbH is specialized in the development and distribution of software products for storage, management and archiving of data. Our data & storage management solutions offer an easy and efficient integration of different storage technologies and systems in consideration of enterprise requirements. PoINT products allow optimized usage of storage systems and help to reduce costs and issues caused by data growth.

The software solutions fulfil compliance and archiving requirements and provide independence from storage technologies and vendors.

Additional information and a trial version of the software are available at www.point.de.