



CENTRE PAUL STRAUSS
Centre de lutte contre le cancer Alsace

Centre Paul Strauss case study

Challenge

- *Electronic Medical Records System*
- *550 users*
- *400 concurrent users*
- *290,000 patients*
- *8 Million documents*
- *160GB database*
- *Business continuity*
- *Increased Data Quality*
- *Data Security*

Centre Paul Strauss estimates they have saved 85% by implementing Dbvisit Standby business continuity rather than Oracle Data Guard.

The Centre Paul Strauss is a dedicated cancer hospital located in the Alsace region of France which provides patient care, from diagnosis to therapeutic treatment, at all stages of the disease.

As well as patient care, the centre is involved in research and teaching and is a part of the French UNICANCER group of hospitals, each of which focus exclusively on cancer.

The Electronic Medical Record (EMR) solution housed within the Centre Paul Strauss data center is a critical component in the delivery of patient care. To ensure continued service to users, they have installed a high availability configuration, including a remote DR site, using Dbvisit Standby.

The Challenge

Patient treatment is entirely reliant on access to the digital medical records, so Centre Paul Strauss needed to implement a solution which would continue to support patient care in the event of a complete failure of the primary system.

Due to the fact that patient treatment is based on the critical data stored by the system, it was important that user errors could be identified, contained and corrected as soon as possible. Centre Paul Strauss was looking for a system which would aid them in this regard, by not immediately replicating incorrect data to the backup site.

The EMR maintains over 8,000,000 medical documents for 290,000 patients, so the chosen solution needed to be high performance and reliable. Application data itself totals over 160GB covering three distinct databases, and the application supports more than 550 users, with up to 400 users accessing the system concurrently.

Centre Paul Strauss needed an easy way to manage a business continuity solution which supported their clinical application, and provided failover in the case of a major software or hardware failure at the primary site.

The Solution

Centre Paul Strauss first considered Oracle Data Guard for their business continuity solution, but ruled this out as it meant a costly license upgrade to Oracle Enterprise Edition. Their clinical application only required Oracle Standard Edition, and the upgrade costs associated with Data Guard meant that it was simply not cost-competitive.



Solution

- Implemented using in-house IT team
- Quick and intuitive deployment
- Oracle Enterprise Edition not required
- Cost savings of 85% over traditional solutions
- Implemented December 2010
- Frequent extracts provide short RPO
- Delayed updates reduce risk of replicating user data errors



A more extensive version of this case study can be found on our website www.dbvisit.com, or simply scan the QR code above.



Upon searching for alternative solutions, Centre Paul Strauss identified **Dbvisit Standby** as fulfilling all their requirements for a business continuity solution, at a cost-effective price. **Dbvisit Standby** provides a proven and reliable physical replication solution for Oracle Standard Edition databases. Centre Paul Strauss calculated cost savings of 85% by using **Dbvisit Standby** in comparison to Oracle's Data Guard.

Centre Paul Strauss's **Dbvisit Standby** configuration consists of a primary (production) database and a remote standby (backup) database. **Dbvisit Standby** performs regular scheduled synchronization of the databases by transmitting the archive logs from the primary database and applying them to the standby database. This data transmission takes place over a secure data connection, and utilizes data compression to reduce the bandwidth requirements.

Critical to the implementation of any business continuity system is the Recovery Point Objective (RPO), which measures the maximum amount of data lost as a result of a failure. While Centre Paul Strauss required a short RPO, they also wished to reduce the risk of replicating erroneous data to the remote site.

Dbvisit Standby's flexible configuration options support this by allowing files to be extracted from the primary site at a high frequency, but with a delay prior to their application at the remote site. This allows them to meet their RPO objective, whilst protecting against user errors. Changed data from the primary site is available on the standby server should a disaster event occur, thereby maintaining RPO, while the application of data is delayed so the standby database can be used in the event of a data corruption in the primary database.

The Result

This solution, using **Dbvisit Standby**, was deployed by Centre Paul Strauss in December 2010 and has been operating successfully ever since. **Dbvisit Standby** is invoked every 30 minutes to replicate the most recent data changes to the remote DR site. Each replication involves around 10MB of data, and takes mere seconds to complete.

There are few examples of systems, and data, more important than patients' medical records. Clinical data is critical in the successful treatment of patients, so must be available to the very highest service levels and free from errors and corruption.

It is also highly confidential, so must comply with the most stringent of security and privacy regulations.

Dbvisit Standby assists Centre Paul Strauss in meeting these requirements through its secure, reliable and efficient replication of data. By using **Dbvisit Standby**, Centre Paul Strauss has been able to rapidly deploy a secure business continuity solution using existing database skills and staff. These same staff manage the ongoing support and operation of the solution.

Dbvisit Standby is designed to ensure that database administrators can configure, operate and support the system without the need for specialist training. At Centre Paul Strauss the internal IT team implemented the solution and now provides the ongoing operation of the solution.

Centre Paul Strauss estimates that by using **Dbvisit Standby** they have been able to implement a DR solution which suited their requirements and at 15% of the cost of traditional solutions.

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