**Proxen Law Firm Chooses Starwind Enterprise HA and Veeam Backup 3.0**

"Combining StarWind and Veeam is one of the best IT solutions that we have seen in years. We got affordable networked storage, increased application and data availability, protected our VMware infrastructure and were able to do all this for less than 25% of what we initially budgeted. No other solutions came even close to the product quality and cost which we got with StarWind and Veeam."

Galina Bondarenko, President, Proxen

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**PROXEN**

**About the Company**

Proxen was founded in 1990, just before the dissolution of the Soviet Union and is the first private law firm to offer legal services in the Ukraine. Proxen is now one of the most respected law firms in the country and has received several awards including “Top 10 Best Law Firms” from the Ukraine publication “Law Practice”.

www.proxen.com.ua

**Industry**

Private Legal Firm

**Environment**

High Availability Server Cluster configurations with HP ProLiant servers and VMware vSphere.

**Key challenges**

Needed to store and protect two decades of data and to increase data availability with server clusters for MS SQL Server and MS Exchange. Additionally, needed to find a reliably VMware backup and replication solution for multiple virtual servers running on VMware vSphere.

**Solution**

StarWind Virtual SAN

Veeam Backup & Replication 3.0

**Business Benefits**

Provided easy to use solution with StarWind and Veeam to both back up VMware vSphere and to store and protect large amounts of server data as well as two decades of client documents. StarWind and Veeam worked perfectly together and the total solution was not only the top choice for product quality but was also truly affordable for the customer.

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**PROBLEM**

Proxen doesn't just have large amounts of client data to be stored and protected, but also has multiple servers that must be clustered to increase application availability for the law firm. Galina Bondarenko, one of the co-founders, had previously stored data primarily in direct attached storage (DAS) but, as the firm has expanded, she realized that the existing storage infrastructure could not scale and accommodate the growth. Additionally, the firm moved to a VMware vSphere infrastructure which requires shared storage and to take advantage of all of the VMware features including VMware HA, VMotion, Storage VMotion, DRS and VCB. They upgraded to new HP ProLiant servers that ran VMware, Microsoft Exchange and SQL Server database and needed to implement shared storage and VMware backup solution quickly. The solution would need to combine increased application and data availability and protection of the VMware virtual servers.

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**SOLUTION**

It was important that the solution be at a reasonable cost, that it works with the existing infrastructure, and that it would be easy to use.

Proxen IT team spoke to resellers in Europe, reviewed the options available and identified EMC CLARION and DataCore SANmelody on the list of five iSCSI SAN vendors. StarWind made this list because it allowed Proxen to convert a standard Intel-based server running Windows 2008 R2 into a fully-functional SAN that had many of the features of an EMC.
CLARIION and other hardware solutions. But StarWind’s price was significantly more affordable. Additionally, Proxen looked at various VMware backup solutions including a product from Vizioncore but Veeam Backup 3.0 consistently had better features and higher performance. Now, all that was left was to try both StarWind and Veeam together in a test environment. Both companies offered a “try before you buy” policy which made an evaluation simple. First, they created a backup of vSphere volumes using Veeam Back Up & Replication software. The backup was then sent to a StarWind Virtual SAN volume which was replicated using StarWind’s Asynchronous Remote Replication feature to an offsite Disaster Recovery location. Finally, the backups were used to reestablish volumes at the Disaster Recovery location. Everything worked flawlessly.

Today Proxen has a scalable, enterprise-class storage and VMware disaster recovery solution which stores the wealth of data archives, provides shared storage for server applications and protects the VMware virtual infrastructure.

With the new shared storage and back up system in place, Galina Bondarenko remarks that StarWind Virtual SAN and Veeam combination is a very powerful enterprise-class solution that surprisingly turned out to be truly affordable as well.

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- Galina Bondarenko, President, Proxen