

India's diversified business corporation partners with Sanovi to ensure critical IT applications are recovery ready.



Essar Global Limited is a diversified business corporation with a balanced portfolio of assets in the manufacturing and services sectors of Steel, Energy, Power, Communications, Shipping Ports & Logistics, and Construction. Essar Global employs over 40,000 people across offices in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas. Essar's abiding philosophy is to be a low cost, high quality, technology driven group with innovative customer offerings.

"Implementing a strong disaster recovery solution for core business applications is part of our overall Group IT Vision. We looked at various options before selecting and rapidly implementing the Sanovi DRM solution in a practical and effective manner."

Vijay Mehra, Group CIO, Essar Group

Jayantha Prabhu, Head - IT Infrastructure, Essar Group shoulders a heavy responsibility. The Essar Oil & Steel group run their production on SAP and production planning on I2 applications. Business has mandated a Recovery Point Objective of one hour and Recovery Time Objective of five hours. Jayantha and his team have to deliver on this promise.

Disaster Recovery readiness is a business driven mandate at Essar, it is owned and driven by the group CIO and individual business line CIOs. While the overall business continuity plan is coming together, the IT team has identified critical applications and embarked on the task of putting together a DR framework that includes DR processes, industry best practices, reporting and frequent testing.

"IT managers have to be ready for the unexpected -- especially now that industry and government rules on data protection require recovery readiness. Implementation of Sanovi DRM solution would ensure applications are always available when disaster strikes."

Prakash Dharmani, CIO, Essar Engineering Limited

Through the process of designing and implementing DR solutions and testing it, Jayantha and his team realized the challenges they need to address to have a DR they can rely on. They wanted to automate the testing and recovery process and thereby minimize the need for experts and eliminate operator error. After considering Sanovi's value proposition and impressed with the product demonstration, Jayantha was convinced that Sanovi's DRM software offers the features and benefits he is looking for in a DR management framework for their IT organization.

"Traditional disaster recovery entails numerous steps that are difficult or hard to practice. As a result, manual disaster recovery is generally slow, complex and prone to human error. The Sanovi's DRM solution opens the door to disaster recovery automation for our enterprise applications on SAP and I2 platforms." said Jayantha after going over the Sanovi product portfolio.

“We have struggled for a long while trying to create a Disaster Recovery environment for Essar Group’s IT Infrastructure Landscape, that allows us to sleep at night without worry. We have tried several approaches including RAID arrays, drive mirroring, and “snapshots”, etc. By presenting Sanovi as a solution to business for DRM, the availability of our IT Infrastructure has increased many folds as well as time taken to data recovery (bring the business back to normal in case of disaster) has reduced drastically. The introduction of Sanovi in our IT Infrastructure can be summarized in one line and that is, It does just about everything we want it to do and does it the way we want it to do it”

Vikas Prabhu, CIO Essar Telecom

The DR solution for SAP on the primary production site consists of a two node cluster with the Oracle database and the central instance running on different nodes of the cluster. The Oracle database is replicated between the primary and DR site using Oracle’s DataGuard replication solution. The Application module runs on a separate server in a tiered application architecture. Sanovi’s software has a built in file replication module to replicate application environment and configuration files. The monitoring capability will alert when a folder or file of interest has changed. Essar chose to use the file change alert capability and then replicate the files on demand. Part of the infrastructure at the DR site is used for test and QA purpose, so copying configuration changes on demand gives them the flexibility without impacting their DR readiness.

“The implementation of Sanovi’s DRM solution had major implications for our Disaster Recovery service operations. Rich in functionality, this tool has considerably reduced the effort for regular DR setup monitoring, management, report generation and DR drill activity.”

Jayantha Prabhu, Head IT - Infrastructure

The I2 application module runs on a dedicated server, the application is dependent on four database. For recovery and drill, the four database must come up on the DR before the application is brought up on the DR. Sanovi DRM software has the capability to represent recovery dependencies. Enterprise applications are usually dependent on several entities like process, database and data feeds to be available before they can provide services. Using Sanovi DRM’s application group abstraction, the four database are represented as dependent entities of I2’s application group. On failover or switchover of the I2 application, the recovery of the four database start in parallel ensuring Recovery Time service levels are met. Synchronization point support

in Sanovi DRM ensures that all the four database are ready before proceeding to recovery of the application server.

Benefits. The Essar DR team leveraged the pre-packaged recovery workflows to dramatically reduce the amount of time required to deploy DR solution for their SAP and I2 applications. The time to conduct DR drill has gone down by over 90% and one person is able to drive the DR drills without the physical presence of experts. The real-time monitoring and reporting capability enables the team to share enterprise application’s recovery readiness report with their management. The overall confidence that applications will recovery to meet business set service levels is very high.

Result. Impressed with their success with their SAP and I2 applications, the IT team is recommending more applications come under Sanovi DRM software umbrella.

“The true key to success here is our confidence in achieving business set RPO & RTO objectives round the clock with ease.”

About Sanovi

Sanovi helps organizations across the globe proactively manage disaster recovery (DR) environments and ensure business managers that applications can be recovered in compliance with service level agreements. Sanovi DR Management™ Suite, is a comprehensive family of enterprise-class DR management software solutions for validating, monitoring, testing and automating recovery. For more information visit www.sanovi.com.