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Case Study >

GROCONTINENTAL >>

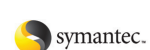
# let's **talk** about...

**Grocontinental** One of the UK's leading international storage and distribution companies.

**Company Background** From its purpose-built, 25 acre site in Whitchurch, Shropshire, the company oversees 120,000 pallet spaces of multi-temperature storage and 4,000 daily pallet movements, all controlled by the latest in systems technology. The company's transport division comprises 56 tractor units and 120 temperature-controlled trailers which operate throughout Europe.

**Business Challenge** As Grocontinental operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with time-critical operations, the IT department instigated a business continuity project to ensure that, in the event of a disaster affecting the server room, operations could continue with minimal disruption. They created a secondary server room to act as a disaster recovery (DR) facility, and employed virtualisation with replication software from Double-Take to ensure that business critical data was always protected. It was identified, however, that although the above measures were in place, all data and voice communications from all 13 locations of the organisation passed through the original server room. Therefore, in the event of a failure in the system, no one would be able to connect to the servers in the secondary DR server room.

**Grocontinental required professional IT assistance to achieve a cost-effective solution to this complex problem.**





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**Our Solution**



**Business Solution** MWL Systems was asked to provide **consultancy services** to design a solution that allowed data communications to continue in the event of a disaster affecting the main server room. Working with a specialist cabling company, MWL Systems designed a ring/star network utilising **Spanning-Tree technology** to create a resilient, fibre-optic based 'self-healing' infrastructure that could withstand the loss of any single location or core network link.

In addition, MWL Systems provided **further benefits** by replacing numerous Power over Ethernet (PoE) injectors and media converters with switches that had built-in functionality for both purposes. Inbuilt stacking capabilities meant that in areas where multiple switches were required, additional resilience and simplified management could be achieved through Link Aggregation (LAGs) of core network links.

**KEY BENEFITS**

- The introduction of a resilient **'self-healing'** network infrastructure.
- Greatly **simplified** management of Grocontinental's network infrastructure.
- Removal of large quantities of old, unmanaged equipment (*PoE injectors and media convertors*) with a **single managed** device.
- A reduction in the complexity and **increased reliability** of systems generally.
- A **future-proof** design taking into consideration the future requirements of Grocontinental's business, including an IP phone system.
- A project that was managed as a **'turn-key'** solution, from design through to implementation and commissioning with minimum and managed downtime.

**“ We were really impressed by the solution that MWL Systems had to offer...**



*and even more so by the expertise and professionalism of their staff. Being a 24 hour operation, it was imperative that we kept our business running smoothly during the installation of the new equipment and systems. We were delighted by the way the entire project was managed by MWL Systems, including the limiting of downtime to off-peak working in the evenings and weekends, and liaising with the cabling contractor to ensure a seamless transition.*

**Steve Blakemore** IT Manager, Grocontinental



This was **Grocontinental**, but **IT** could be you!  
WITH A MWL SYSTEMS TAILORED IT SOLUTION



let's **talk** more

**PHONE**  
01978 858 300

**EMAIL**  
info@mwlsystems.co.uk

**WEBSITE**  
www.mwlsystems.co.uk