

Seajacks

Seajacks is a major installation and maintenance contractor for the offshore wind, oil and gas industries. The company currently operates four purpose built jack up vessels – Seajacks Kraken, Leviathan, Zaratan and Hydra. - all of which are home to their own Seajacks crew. Their fifth vessel, Seajacks Scylla, will be delivered Q4 2015. Their main UK headquarters, based in Great Yarmouth, ensures their operations are run safely and cost effectively. Each vessel has around 15 PCs that are used by the core crew and clients on-board.

The problem

Seajacks' vessels are highly reliant on email contact with their head office. Regular weather reports are sent, since the crews can only operate safely under certain conditions. The vessels' catering departments must be resupplied periodically. CAD drawings are exchanged for their work, and scans of passports and other documents are required by the port authorities. Many of these documents are several megabytes in size. However, the vessels are reliant on a 1 Mbit/s satellite connection, which may be shared by up to 60 people on each vessel – and by incoming email.

Aaron Maas, Seajacks' IT co-ordinator, was aware that the bottlenecks caused by large but necessary documents could potentially hold up operations, since the vessels' captains would sometimes have to wait for weather reports.

NXPowerLite Desktop trial

'I found NXPowerLite when I was searching for compression software,' Aaron explained. 'Data and email are critical to our vessels, and some of the files were very large. Excel attachments from the catering department could be 30 Mb.'

"The catering emails slimmed down from 30 to 3 Mb. Suddenly there were no queues any more – emails get through in up to five minutes instead of taking half an hour."

Aaron Maas, IT Co-ordinator, Seajacks

Aaron decided to trial NXPowerLite's Desktop software for a handful of computers on one vessel, and found that it was ideal for streamlining email communication. 'The catering emails slimmed down from 30 to 3 Mb. Suddenly there were no queues any more – emails get through in up to five minutes instead of taking half an hour.'

Once Aaron had established that the software was effective, he purchased licences and installed it on three further vessels. 'We also installed it for our users in the main office, since they used the same 1 Mbit/s satellite connection to communicate with the vessels.'

NXPowerLite for File Servers

Pleased with the performance of the file reduction technology, Aaron realised that Neuxpower could also solve a different problem. 'We have 800 Gb of storage for our main office, and we were down to 15 Gb of space left on the drive. We were probably putting an extra 15 Gb of data on it every week, so we were running out of time!'

Because the server was used by employees in different time zones, it was effectively in operation 24/7. A distributed file system replicates 100 Gb of data across offices in China, South Korea and Dubai. 'It's a continual process – not scheduled. We could have added more drives but that was a last resort, since it would have meant hours of downtime, and it was important to avoid that. Keeping our data on one drive makes everything simpler, too.'

"We saved about 200 Gb of space straightaway, a 25 percent reduction. The software ran in the background, so there was no downtime at all, which was great."

Aaron Maas, IT Co-ordinator, Seajacks

Aaron ran NXPowerLite for File Servers and was again pleased with the outcome. 'We saved about 200 Gb of space straightaway, a 25 percent reduction. The software ran in the background, so there was no downtime at all, which was great.' After optimising the files on the server, there were no complaints from any of the staff. 'There was no reaction from users. They keep all kinds of files and information on there but they didn't notice anything at all.'

Ongoing use of NXPowerLite

Aaron now uses the software to optimise the server regularly. 'I'm very pleased. There's very little maintenance needed. I don't really touch it nowadays – it just runs in the background.'

After the success with the first four vessels, he plans to install NXPowerLite Desktop on Seajacks' fifth vessel. 'It just worked really well for us – it's a great piece of optimisation software!'