

THALES ALENIA SPACE TAKES CONTROL OF THEIR PROJECT DATA

Thales Alenia Space [Thales], part of the Thales group, is an aerospace and defence company working with the most high-performance satellite technologies in both civil and defence sectors. The company has 7,500 employees in France, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Germany and the United States, and posted total revenues of 2.1 billion Euros in 2011.



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Mr Serge Gonzalez, Datacentre Operation Governance Manager, is in charge of the datacentre operations, storage management and operational maintenance of servers and applications. He oversees the operations in two data centres spanning over 20 hosts, with a total capacity of 60TB and with more than 6,000 users accessing the data.

Excessive growth rate is also a concern at Thales, especially considering the data intensive nature of the aerospace and defence industry. The average growth rate for the industry is around 35% year-over-year, with some studies suggesting that between 50% and 60% not being uncommon. Most of this growth can be contributed to unstructured, user-generated

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TACKLING THE CHALLENGES

The business at Thales Alenia Space is largely driven by projects and the data needs to be saved and kept accessible for an extended period of time. This is a very common scenario within the aerospace and defence industry where retention rates sometimes are as long as seventy years. When asked

data. With IT budgets getting tighter, taking control and lowering the data growth is crucial. As Serge Gonzalez puts it: **“Slowing the growth of user-generated data just a little bit means big savings over time.”**

In addition to clean-up efforts, Thales needs some kind of boundaries to the storage. A limitless storage environment will

not only be extremely expensive but a lack of control may lead to over-utilization and an unstable infrastructure. Planning for new hardware would be difficult, and that in turn could mean that the IT environment isn't ready in time and could jeopardize or block new projects.

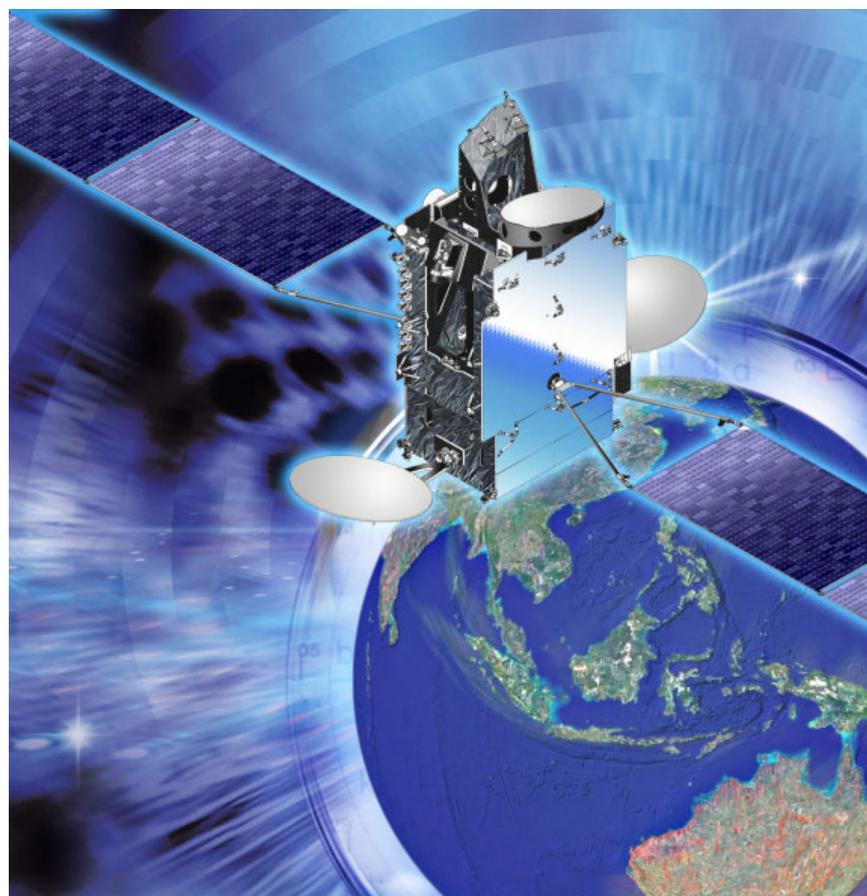
MAKING IT HAPPEN

Thales Alenia Space has been using Northern Storage Suite [NSS] to control its user-generated data for more than eight years.

Today NSS is helping Thales to allocate storage by using disk quota on projects and sub-projects. Mr. Gonzalez explains that **“the quota size is negotiated for the individual project, and a size upgrade is only allowed after the user has made an effort to clean up the space”**. He continues: **“Storage without boundaries would not be manageable in terms of costs.”**

The quota creation is integrated into Thales' own management tool and this centralized administration reduces the management cost and streamlines workflows.

The disk quotas are also used as a basis for usage reporting, both on individual projects and on a volume level.



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about how Thales tackles this problem Mr. Gonzalez says: **“The fact that we need to keep the data for a long time is a big challenge for us. For some programs we need to keep the data for multiple decades. To do this efficiently we archive the data outside of primary storage and it's crucial that it contains only necessary data. Once it's archived we can not clean it anymore.”**

Mr. Gonzalez is currently looking to expand the use of Northern Storage Suite's reporting functionality in order to get a deeper insight into how the storage is actually being used. This increased understanding of the storage usage can be used by the IT department for justification and planning purposes, but also distributed to the share owners, helping them to further reduce their storage foot-print by making sure only the relevant information is kept.

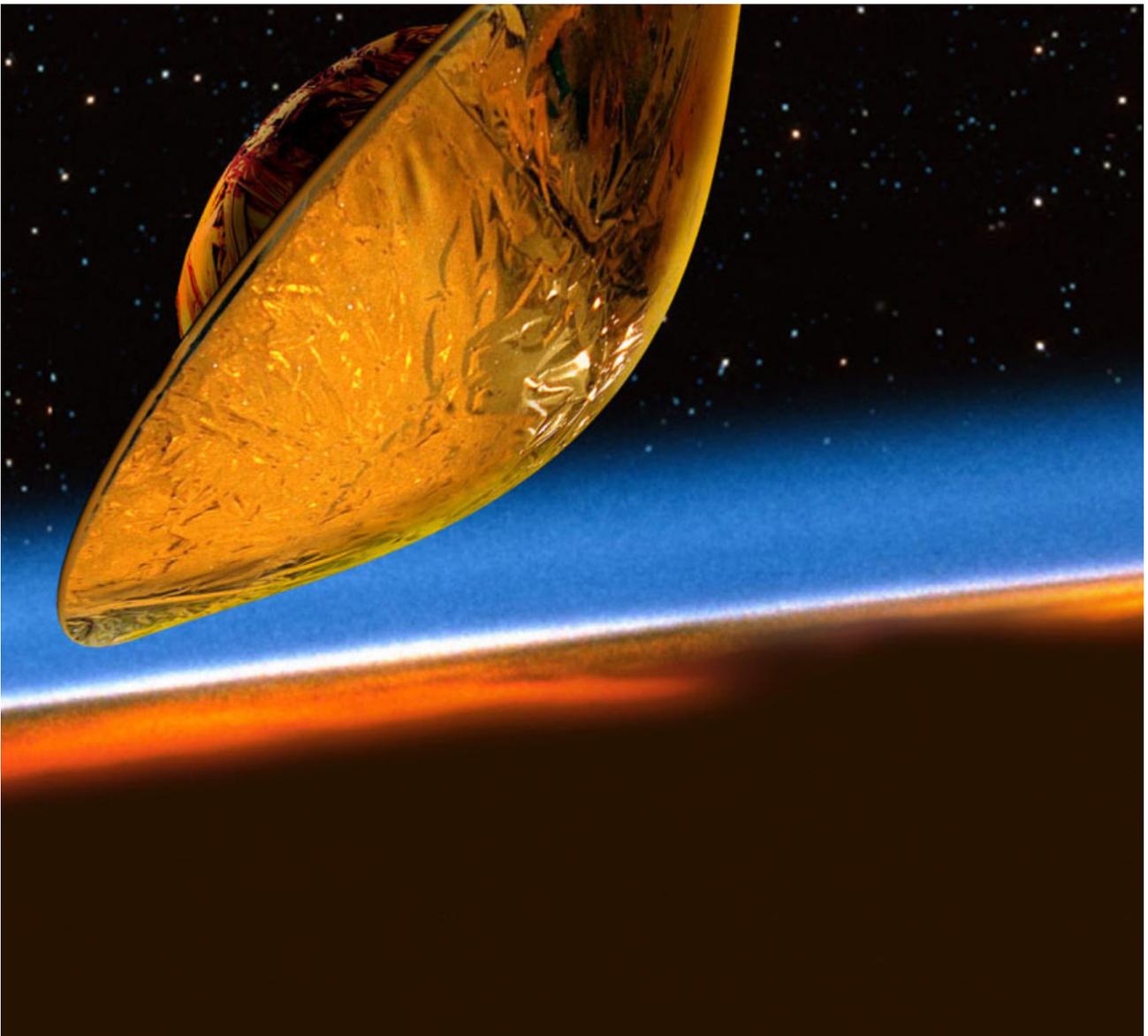
RESULTS

After having used Northern Storage Suite for over eight years, Thales Alenia Space has measured an astonishingly low growth rate of 10% year-over-year. This is helping the IT department to stay within budget and to better anticipate disk usage, which means they can plan for future hardware investments with more accuracy.

” **Slowing the growth of user-generated data just a little bit means big savings over time.**

Additionally, having a system of control in place has led to a change in the user behaviour. Mr Gonzalez describes it like this: **“Seeing that there are limits to what they’re allowed to save, both project owners and users are more cautious of what they use their storage space for, resulting in a cleaner and more easily manageable environment.”**

It’s easy for Mr. Gonzalez to see, and measure, the value that Northern Storage Suite has brought to Thales and when asked if he would recommend NSS to other organizations he says: **“Most definitely, especially to any organization that needs to manage large projects, consuming a lot of storage space, that needs to be kept for a long time.”**



USER DATA MANAGEMENT

User Data Management [UDM] is when an organization decides to actively manage the user data generated and kept within the organization. It is dealing with the challenges and opportunities related to user-generated, unstructured data, through insight and control. It is a goal-driven, policy-based approach that enables the organisation to deliver the appropriate knowledge and tools into the line of business and into the hands of data owners, enabling them to actively participate in the reduction of cost and risk associated with user data.

The first step in managing user data is focused on analyzing and taking conscious decisions on topics like:

- what is valuable and not valuable user-generated data;
- what are the risks related to the user-generated data of the organisation;
- what are the costs related to the user-generated data.

Secondly, UDM concentrates on forming policies and guidelines based on the analysis and decisions made. These provide support to an organization on topics such as:

- user-generated data that are no longer in use, for example belonging to employees that have left and projects that have been concluded;
- limitation on content to avoid creating liability or harm to the organisation;
- limits to how much data a person can save, depending on his/her role within the organisation, or how much storage space a particular project is allocated.

The third aspect of UDM is the communication and involvement of the organization around the policies and guidelines and the reasoning behind this, typically amongst others about:

- life-time total cost of keeping data;
- possible liability related to data stored;
- responsibilities of individuals, projects and departments in relation to data.

NORTHERN STORAGE SUITE

Northern Storage Suite is a user and data centric software solution that enables organisations to constrain data growth, align the value of data with the cost of storage, and extend the life of storage infrastructure. NSS is making efficient storage consumption a part of business culture, by making people aware of how storage resources are being used, what type of data is stored, where and by whom, and by following up on defined guidelines and policies. NSS gives insight into current and future risk, highlights opportunities for increased efficiency and changes the users approach to saving data.

Please visit Northern's Aerospace portal for more information on how we've helped other aerospace and defence companies take control of their user-generated data: www.northern.net/aerospaceFR

ABOUT NORTHERN

NORTHERN is dedicated to helping organisations gain control over their unstructured and user-generated data. By gaining control, organisations avoid unnecessary costs, handle compliance related issues with their user-generated data, and reduce the operational risks related to their IT infrastructure. Furthermore, control also means that organisations are able to capitalize on the opportunities related to their pools of data.

Founded in Stockholm, Sweden in 1995 Northern has from the beginning served a global market focusing solely on User Data Management. The in-house developed solution, Northern Storage Suite, is used by organisations around the world with large numbers of users and/or large amounts of unstructured data. Organisations in all areas, from aerospace and healthcare to government and education, have realized the benefits of the goal-driven, policy-based approach to UDM that Northern can offer.

Northern serves a global market through its six bases of operations, Sweden [Stockholm], United States [Boston, MA], France [Paris], United Kingdom [London], Italy [Turin] and The Netherlands [Utrecht]. For more information visit www.northern.net.

