

Data Protection and Management Services

Quorum appliances are robust and reliable, exactly what we required at Leigh Day for critical data protection and management



Leigh Day

Company Background

Leigh Day is one of the country's leading law firms. Representing only claimants, it works internationally for the rights of individuals against corporations and governments. Based in Clerkenwell, London and Manchester, it handles thousands of legal cases every year.

The Business Challenges

Over the past 20 years, Leigh Day's cases have generated a lot of files and data, and the storage and security of this data are critical for the firm and its clients. In order to deal with this data and its storage on a daily basis, the firm needed to find a sophisticated backup solution to support its work now and in the future.

Working with its incumbent provider Leigh Day's existing 'pay by capacity' backup solution was leading to escalating costs. For example, saving and using high-resolution data-heavy satellite images and using the 'pay by capacity' model proved unworkable as the firm was being charged per gigabyte.

With 300 staff and new offices in Manchester, the firm needed a more robust backup to accommodate the organisation's growth. Furthermore, the legal firm was a VMware house meaning they required a flexible infrastructure to suit their already

virtualised environment.

Alongside managing the backup needs of an expanding firm, Leigh Day had to comply with regulatory bodies such as the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) and the Data Protection Act (DPA) to ensure the safety and security of any backed-up data.

The Solutions

Leigh Day turned to its IT reseller, Covenco, for a simple-to-manage, robust, and cost-effective solution to its ongoing data protection problem.

Quorum was recommended because it offered a solution that was easy to use, and could ensure business continuity for the firm.

Quorum worked with Leigh Day on a proof of concept test, during which Quorum deployed its onQ appliance to protect two of Leigh Day's servers for two months, created a test server, and enacted a real-world disaster recovery failback.

The onQ appliance is the building block of Quorum's DR and DRaaS capabilities maintaining highly available up-to-date virtual machine clones of critical systems. This means it is capable of efficiently taking over failed servers within minutes. The onQ worked seamlessly in Leigh Day's virtualised environment.

Quorum has now deployed three onQ appliances and an Archive Vault at Leigh Day's HQ in London. The onQ appliances protect the



firm's 20+ servers as well as the excessive amounts of data. They take a snapshot of the local production server every 30 minutes; backing up and replicating the entire server estate. On a monthly basis, the snapshots are archived, meaning that Leigh Day will always have access to its legacy data from the Archive Vault. With its incremental-forever and deduplication technologies, the amount of new data that needs to be sent to the appliances per snapshot is usually quite small, minimising not only storage requirements but also reducing the load on Leigh Day's LAN and WAN.

For added resiliency, Leigh Day opted to mirror its entire HA solution to the Covenco data centre, where an additional three onQ appliances and Archive Vault constantly replicate the activity in Clerkenwell. This gives full disaster recovery capabilities all

through the onQ solution.

The onQ appliances keep up-to-date copies of Leigh Day's operating system, application, and data files on both the local and remote appliances. It also keeps ready-to-run "Recovery Nodes" standing by. If any of Leigh Day's protected servers fail, the Recovery Node can be started with a single click and have the firm running again in minutes.

The entire backup and Recovery Node creation process is totally automatic and doesn't require any additional hardware or software. The onQ's incremental updates are extremely efficient, sending only the parts of any files that have changed, storing them in a repository for point-in-time file recovery, and merging those changes into the Recovery Nodes. This means the storage process is efficient and

should a disaster occur, the onQs can transparently take over for failed servers within minutes.

The Result

Since the installation, multiple file restores have been carried out by Leigh Day enabling it to continue to back up its data without any trouble and with peace of mind.

The Quorum solution has made life easier and more flexible for the IT department at Leigh Day, which means that they can now concentrate on doing what they do best—innovating and improving systems.

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James Harrison,
IT Director, Leigh Day

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About Covenco

With more than 30 years of experience in the IT industry across a range of technologies, [Covenco](#) specializes in purchasing, selling and renting new and refurbished IBM, HP, Dell and NetApp computing hardware, storage and supporting software. Today, Covenco provides cloud and hosting solutions, disaster recovery, maintenance, virtualization, backup and high-availability services.

Solution components

[Covenco DRaaS](#)

[Quorum OnQ](#)

Covenco started way back in 1989, selling IBM's System 36 and AS/400 servers. Over 30 years later, we still have IBM at the core of our business, but we do so much more now. Covenco have always strived to provide value without compromise, and this remains our primary goal today.

We work across a variety of industry sectors - as Business Partners for new IT infrastructure solutions and as Business Continuity specialists. Covenco is today a modern data management company providing its clients with data protection, data availability and data security 24x7 365 days a year.

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