

# **Nominee: Arvato with Epaton supporting Slough Borough Council**

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## **Nomination title: Infrastructure Consolidation**

Arvato are a fully integrated subsidiary of Bertelsmann SE and employ approximately 70000 people globally. In the UK, one of the customers they provide outsourced managed IT services to is Slough Borough Council.

At the Slough data centre, Arvato had an existing virtualised infrastructure that had grown over several years, mainly HP servers and EMC storage. Some of this infrastructure was reaching end of support life and occupying 10 racks in a co-location facility. Additionally, the existing technology wasn't providing a sufficiently robust infrastructure solution. A new infrastructure was required. Working with their partner Epaton, Arvato set out to design and implement this.

The major challenge for this project was that the existing hardware was very disparate representing many generations over an 8-10 year period. These extant systems ran a number of legacy applications where the knowledge to support these applications had diminished within the organisation over time and there was no supporting documentation for them. The knock on effect of this was that the migration of data from the disparate sources made sizing of the new equipment difficult. In order to address this, a complete systems audit was carried out, reviewing the processor and generation specifications of all hardware and software. This enabled mathematical modelling to be carried out and a sizing specification decided upon.

Arvato and Epaton designed and implemented a complete solution that was made up of a Nimble Smartstack which provided a converged compute and storage infrastructure with 120TB per site over 2 sites. Fully integrated Commvault suite for back-up and DR and Nexsan storage as a back-up target to eliminate the requirement for tape other than for archival purposes were also included.

The challenges faced by the team were that they needed to create a simpler system that would incorporate the project requirements including growth for the next 5 years based on a budget while simultaneously leveraging any existing skill set within the organisation such as Hyper-V, Commvault and Nimble therefore saving on re-training costs. By innovation through integration – Commvault integrates well with Nimble's Snapshot capability, Commvault also integrates really well with Hyper-V and Nimble and Cisco seamlessly integrate into the Nimble Smartstack thus saving on management overhead – these project requirements were met. This innovative approach also provided a fully realised DR environment with a SLA of 15 minutes.

Tangible benefits gained from the finished project were that Arvato had achieved a significant reduction in the footprint in the DC, going from 10 racks in the legacy infrastructure to 2 racks in the Nimble Smartstack/Commvault/Nexsan solution which lead to a large reduction in costs for co-location, power and cooling. The new infrastructure successfully leveraged existing skill sets within the organisation while at the same time providing a robust integrated system with a fully functional DR facility.

### **Why nominee should win**

- **Scope of the project – An integrated project team of Arvato and Epaton did everything from initial data gathering through design, cost control, price negotiation and supply and implementation.**
- **Design of the Solution – assembling a collection of best of breed components at each layer that had the capability to integrate well.**
- **Cost – project was delivered for half of the original cost estimate.**
- **Innovation and Optimisation - Arvato driving efficiencies to deliver more for less for their customers.**