

C A S E S T U D Y



Logan Aluminum

Guaranteed, On-time SAN Migration



Introduction

Formed in 1985, Logan Aluminum is located in Logan County, Kentucky and is jointly owned by ARCO Aluminum Inc. and Novelis Corporation. The company is a world-class manufacturer of Aluminum sheet products with special expertise in fabrication of rigid container sheet, building products, automotive sheet, distributor sheet, and food can sheet.



For Logan Aluminum, the shutdown of a single mill due to server downtime can cost the company hundreds of thousands of dollars an hour. To avoid shutdown during a planned migration, the Service Team had planned to work nights and weekends over a 6-week period. The team was excited to learn that another solution from Vicom Systems could accomplish the migration in a single weekend. InfoSystems, an IBM Business Partner and a long-time Logan Aluminum supplier, introduced the Vicom solution who provided a guarantee that the migration would be delivered on time.

Challenges

After giving the go-ahead, Bob Mounts, Logan Aluminum's Technology Leader, said, "We knew enough about the Vicom solution that we felt comfortable and since InfoSystems was willing to stand by the result, the decision was easy."

In prior migrations, Logan Aluminum had to wait as long eight hours or more to copy just 180 gigabytes of data. With the Vicom appliance, the same task took a little more than 2.5 hours. Bob Mounts explained, "Our past experience with host-based migration software like Robocopy, Scopy, and Rcopy has shown that they are too slow. By using Vicom's migration technology, the migration was accomplished in a little over 24 hours, including security permissions, and our shares remained intact. In the past, we always seemed to have an issue with permissions and shares, especially with host-based migrations."

Permission and shares reside on the disk and not within the file data. Since host-based migration methods copy only the files, the permissions can change. This change occurs because the NTFS volume receiving the file treats it as new, and all newly created files inherit the permissions of their parent folder. Moreover, problems with missing permissions and shares are often so subtle that storage administrators usually have no idea that a user is denied access until complaints are received. To fix these user access issues, Logan system administrators previously had to verify the security request and determine what type of access the user has and is allowed. In addition, the administrators were required to scrutinize the entire security archive to ensure that users were not blocked from accessing other files and directories. Time spent verifying and rectifying user access ranged between 15- 45 minutes per user.

Solution: Vicom Data Migration Appliance

Unlike host-based migrations, the Vicom data migration appliance moves data at the block level, replicating the entire disk where the permissions and shares reside. This method ensures a seamless migration for data, files, and permissions. In addition to fast migrations and permission preservation, the Vicom appliance also supports migration to larger LUNs.

Logan Aluminum took advantage of the migration to expand LUN size by 20-30 percent to gain additional needed space. "We're very pleased. We got started on Friday night about 6 o'clock and by 10PM Saturday night we were done. I think we accomplished a lot, and I got a good night's sleep," said Bob Mounts.