SALM SAS
Success Story

- **ORGANISATIONS:**
  Schmidt and Cuisinella (SALM SAS)

- **INDUSTRY:**
  Furniture Manufacturing

- **APPLICATION:**
  Electronic Document Archive

- **INTEGRATOR:**
  2x Plasmon G-Series Gx24 and
  QStar Data Director 2 Software

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We decided not to use a hard disk based archive because it is are writable technology and simply cannot offer the same level of data integrity as UDO."*

*Jean-François Dussourd
System & NetworkArchitect,
Schmidt & Cuisinella
(SALM SAS)*

SCHMIDT AND CUISINELLA

When Schmidt and Cuisinella (SALM SAS -Société Alsacienne de Meubles) upgraded from MO (Magneto Optical) to UDO (Ultra Density Optical), they migrated 10 years of data from1.3GB and 2.6GB MO media onto 30GB UDO media. To comply with requirements for data authenticity, the company uses True Write Once media to archive all financial and logistic documentation from customers, production site sand suppliers. This includes invoices, order confirmations and delivery notes, which are all immediately saved on UDO media, with a second copy created for redundancy purposes.

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Founded in 1957, SALM SA (Société Alsaciennede Meubles) is France's largest manufacturer offitted kitchens and bathrooms. SALM produces 3,300 kitchen elements a day on average in three ISO 9001-certified production facilities in France and Germany and is known mainly through the brands "Schmidt" and "Cuisinella". SALM kitchens are sold in over 650 franchised shops throughout Europe and the company has been expanding over the past few years into Australia, Russia and Asia.

THE PROBLEM

SALM installed their first MO library in 1996 using 1.3GB media and later added a second library based on 2.6GB media. After 10 years of dependable use, the company had far out grown their available archive capacity. The removability of optical media allowed them to deal with this capacity limitation by taking less frequently accessed records offline. At its peak, SALM's offline archive included 18 months of oldest data. One of the major challenges was to manage the growing volume of their archive data in an efficient and cost-effective way. While in the past, SALM was using 4 pieces of MO media each month (equivalent to about 10GB of data), the current monthly archive volume had increased by 50% to 15GB.

SALM wanted to continue using an optical technology since the integrity of their archive had always been a vital component of their electronic document archive strategy. Jean-François Dussourd, System &Network Architect at Schmidt and Cuisinella, comments:"The use of WORM optical technology is an essential feature of our data archive as we want to be sure of the authenticity of our records. We decided not to use a hard disk based archive because it is a rewritable technology and simply cannot offer the same level of data integrity as UDO."
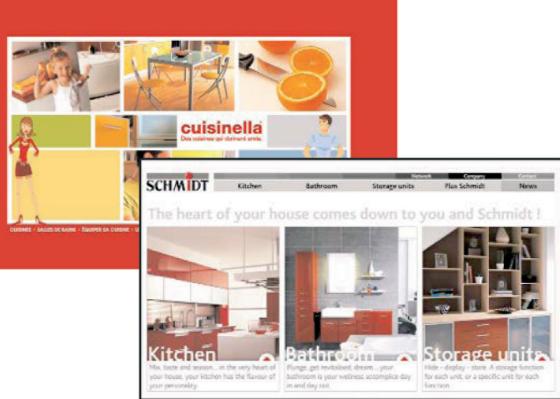
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SCHMIDT

cuisinella®
Des cuisines qui donnent envie.

THE SOLUTION

SALM chose to implement two Gx24 Plasmon G-Series libraries powered by UDO. All documents issued by SALM to customers or suppliers are immediately archived onto UDO media. Paperwork received is scanned and also archived onto UDO media. Whether produced from the IBM AS/400 server or scanned from paper, all documents are retained in a PDF or TIFF format to ensure the files can be read in the future.

While all records are immediately archived on UDO, the most recent two years of data is cached on hard disk and made available to customers and suppliers through the SALM Extranet. SALM's Finance, Administration, Warehouse and After-Sales Service departments are given access to both the hard disk cache and the UDO library. This two-tier architecture provides rapid access to both active and less frequently accessed information while taking full advantage of the longevity and authenticity of UDO.

Every evening, an automated process initiated by the QStar Data Director 2 software creates an incremental copy of the media in the second library for redundancy purposes. Mr Dussourd explains: "The incremental copy feature provided by the QStar Data Director software is a very convenient and totally automated process. It is a nice improvement on our previous system, since once the media is in the library, there is no need to take it out. I no longer have to wait for a side to be fully written to create a new copy".

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UDO SOLUTION

SCLI, a French company specialising in custom-made software solutions, carried out the data migration from MO media to UDO media. QStar software running on Windows servers was selected as the connectivity software for the Plasmon libraries and seamlessly integrated with SCLI Document Management Software, specifically built for SALM and evolved over the past decade.The first G-Series UDO library was installed and tested on site before installing a second library for redundancy a couple months later. DICOM France provided the installation, configuration and software training services.

Mr Dussourd explains: "Because UDO provides more that ten times the capacity of our old MO media, we are using far fewer pieces of UDO media. And since UDO media is even cheaper than MO, it translates into immediate and tangible cost-savings. In terms of access to the UDO archive, we are also very pleased. Access to data on optical disk is very fast, much faster than tape! Tape is great for back-up, that's what we use it for, but this is not an archival storage technology".

THE FUTURE

SALM's migration from older generation MO to new UDO media clearly demonstrates how optical technology enables a long-term management strategy for growing record archives. The stability of optical storage means that SALM was able to select the timing for their data migration based on business circumstances and was not forced to migrate data because of ageing or unsupported technology. With Plasmon's UDO technology road map extending to 60GB and 120GB media, SALM can be confident that their archive solution will continue to evolve with their future business requirements.

▪ **QStar Data Director 2**

Schmidt & Cuisinella customer websites
www.cuisines-schmidt.com
www.cuisinella.com

QSTAR
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