

## Reducing Risk with Zerto Virtual Replication

ABN AMRO Clearing processes millions of financial transactions a year and in order to minimize risk and satisfy compliance requirements, robust business continuity and disaster recovery is required. ABN AMRO Clearing always had a BC/DR process in place; however, the process was very manual. This was not an issue when they only had 10 virtual machines (VMs). However, as their organization has grown, so has their environment and now hundreds of VMs require BC/DR. The manual process that was suitable for 10 VMs is not suitable for hundreds of VMs.

ABN AMRO Clearing needed a simple automated solution that would deliver robust BC/DR for their environment. They evaluated VMware vCenter Site Recovery Manager (SRM) with array-based replication and Zerto Virtual Replication. The complexity of a two product solution along with the inability to replicate a single VM eliminated this option. The simplicity and powerful replication of Zerto Virtual Replication was the ideal solution for ABN AMRO Clearing. Executing a failover, failback or disaster recovery required only a few clicks and would easily scale for their growing environment. They were able to reduce the time to application availability to end-users on the target site by 97%.

### The Problem

ABN AMRO Clearing had hundreds of VMs to manage and a manual process for BC/DR was not feasible. They had VMware SRM licenses so they started to investigate it for BC/DR with storage replication. An issue that quickly became apparent was that it was not possible to replicate, failover or recovery of a single VM. Recovery was done at the LUN level which resulted in over replication and inefficient use of bandwidth and storage resources, decreasing the return on investment. The required configuration was quite complex raising concerns that the BC/DR process would not be executed consistently, which was a concern to the team.

### Why Zerto Virtual Replication?

Financial institutions are heavily regulated and require BC/DR as part of these regulations. ABN AMRO was looking for something that delivered very aggressive service levels, yet was intuitive to use. Zerto Virtual Replication is configured once and requires minimal ongoing management to ensure the business can recover from any interruption. Finally, other solutions required days for installation, configuration and training. Zerto Virtual Replication was up and running in 90 minutes, accelerating the time to value by 98%.

- **VM-aware replication and granularity:** The ability to select specific VMs to replicate allows ABN AMRO to protect exactly what is needed, nothing more. This reduces storage and bandwidth requirements while simplifying BC/DR processes. The additional step of determining which VMs are on which LUN is eliminated reducing complexity.

### Challenges

The business continuity solution must:

- Support audit requirements
- Simplify BC/DR processes for many VMs
- Require no configuration changes

### Solution

The Zerto Virtual Replication solution:

- Delivers reports for disaster recovery tests exceeding audit requirements
- Automated failover, failback and disaster recovery testing
- Replicates at the VM-level, no storage reconfiguration required

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**“The granularity of Zerto (Virtual Replication) is incredibly valuable to our organization. With Zerto, we can recover a single or many VMs as the situation demands simply and most importantly, quickly. The recovery process was taking 9 hours required several people and we were losing at least one hour of valuable data. With Zerto (Virtual Replication) we only needed one person and in 15 minutes we were up and running with seconds of data loss”**

— Senior VM/SAN Analyst  
ABN AMRO Clearing

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- **Automated and robust reporting to satisfy audit requirements:** Once DR testing is complete a report is generated detailing each step in the recovery process, including the time it takes to recover. These reports satisfy internal and external audit requirements and ensure predictability in times of crisis.
- **Aggressive recovery point objectives (RPOs) and recovery time objectives (RTOs):** Zerto Virtual Replication delivers RPOs of seconds and RTOs of minutes, so applications are available quickly and with minimal data loss. ABN AMRO Clearing can lose thousands pounds per hour, so minimizing data loss and accelerating availability are critical.
- **Continuous data protection with the journal:** The journal provides many points to failback to making it easy to recover from logical failures as well as outages caused by natural and other types of disasters.
- **Simple management:** Zerto Virtual Replication is very easy to use. It plugs right into VMware vCenter, keeping management centralised and simple and it is just a single click to protect, test and execute a failover.
- **Automated failover, failback, recovery and DR testing:** Through automation, production workloads can be replicated and recovered consistently through a simple, repeatable process. The automation ensures accuracy while accelerating recovery time objectives.
- **Simple, Seamless installation:** Zerto Virtual Replication installed into the existing infrastructure in only 90 minutes. There are no storage updates, hypervisor patches, OS upgrades or other configuration changes required.
- **Simple migrations:** The ability to quickly and easily move a virtual machine to another location makes it easy to take advantage of resources across the environment.

**“ We need to have a robust BC/DR solution that is reliable and will meet our service levels. With array-based replication, we had to have extensive knowledge of how VMs were mapped to LUNs and it required significant scripting and workarounds. We cannot afford this risky process for BC/DR. Zerto Virtual Replication demonstrated its simplicity immediately – it was up and running in 90 minutes. It was simple, reliable and easily met our internal and external requirements for data protection.”**

— Senior VM/SAN Analyst, ABN AMRO Clearing

## About ABN AMRO Clearing

ABN AMRO Clearing is an independent global business partner providing an integrated service package for your professional business. The pedigree of our firm goes back to the 1980's, when the first Options Exchange in Europe was started in Amsterdam. Since then ABN AMRO Clearing has grown into a leading global securities services provider. Operating for many years under the "Mees Pierson" and "Fortis" brand the organization recently rebranded in ABN AMRO Clearing.

## About MBA IT

MBA was founded in London as a VAR in 2005 to provide outstanding IT Support to UK Financial Services customers. Still based in the City of London, but with regional offices in Manchester and Hampshire, MBA is a fully fledged IT Services Partner to leading global Banks, Insurers, Asset Managers, as well as an array of technically demanding TMT, Gaming and Legal firms. MBA's growing MSP division has built upon this platform, using Cloud-based services, based on award-winning technologies to provide On-Demand Managed IT for a variety of Service Industry clients.

## About Zerto

Zerto has developed a software-based platform for workload mobility, migration, protection and recovery in hybrid-cloud environments, allowing for seamless flexibility and manageability of applications whether they reside on-premise or in the cloud. The company's Cloud Fabric platform is based on the award-winning Zerto Virtual Replication software which has become the standard for protection, recovery and migration of data in cloud and virtualized datacenters. For more information, please visit: [www.zerto.com](http://www.zerto.com). ■

# Zerto

Contact us today to learn more or request a free trial at [www.zerto.com](http://www.zerto.com) or [info@zerto.com](mailto:info@zerto.com).

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