




Operis Case Study

Operis boosts business continuity by moving disaster recovery to the cloud

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Paul Myers, Managing Director, Operis

-  Automated failover to the cloud helps to ensure seamless continuity of client service
-  Reduced RTO to 15 minutes and RPO to 30 seconds
-  Cloud-based recovery enables Operis to rapidly restore business-critical applications
-  Zero-impact recovery plan testing gives peace of mind that applications are well-protected

About Operis

Headquartered in London, UK, major financial advisor Operis operates internationally, delivering invaluable financial advice and counsel to organisations from across a wide range of industries.

Founded in 1990, Operis has developed a comprehensive portfolio of services and solutions focused on project finance, which includes financial advice, model audit, financial modelling, training, and modelling software. Operis has delivered assignments in more than 70 countries, helping energy companies and healthcare organisations—and businesses from every industry in between—finance projects effectively.

Protecting a booming business

Operis advises and supports its clients throughout long-term infrastructure, industrial and public works projects where there is little room for error. To deliver the continuity of service that its clients demand, Operis cannot afford for business applications to go down.

Paul Myers, Managing Director at Operis, begins, “We rely on our IT systems to deliver core services to clients, so keeping those applications running uninterrupted is

crucial. The fact that we operate internationally, and are experiencing growth in new markets, means we need to ensure that our mission-critical applications are available 24/7, even in the event of a component failure.”

Having grown significantly in recent years, Operis found that its existing disaster recovery solution was no longer up to scratch.

Many of the company’s core systems did not have high-availability features, and Operis could no longer meet its recovery time objective (RTO)—meaning that there was potential for prolonged service disruption in the event of an outage.

Paul Myers says, “To ensure reliable, round-the-clock services, we knew we needed to shake up our disaster recovery processes.”

Sky-high disaster recovery

After evaluating its existing set-up, Operis decided to completely overhaul its disaster recovery processes and implement a cloud-based solution. The company chose to engage Northdoor to design and deploy a solution based on Microsoft Azure Site Recovery and Distributed File System.



“The speed and simplicity of the solutions give me confidence that our most critical applications are well-protected, and that we can be sure of providing the best service to clients no matter what.”

Paul Myers, Managing Director, Operis

Paul Myers recalls, “We selected Northdoor as our technology partner because they understand what a business like ours needs from our IT. Their structured approach ensured that they delivered the right solution that meets all of our requirements.”

Microsoft Azure Recovery is a powerful Disaster Recovery-as-a-Service offering that automatically replicates Operis’ IT environment to an Azure private cloud, enabling near-instant failover in the event of disaster at one of the company’s data centres.

The Distributed File System, meanwhile, enables Operis to group together shared folders located on geographically-dispersed servers and connect them as a single file system. This ensures that employees can access all files even if one of the servers goes down—enabling business to go on as usual in the event of hardware or comms failure at one site.

Paul Myers remarks, “The Northdoor team supported us throughout the entire process, from engaging Microsoft to setting up how to manage and monitor replication, failover and recovery. Northdoor really helped us to hit the ground running.”

Rapid recovery for continuous operations

With Microsoft Azure Site Recovery, Operis has gained an ultra-reliable disaster recovery solution that helps ensure seamless business continuity.

“Having our IT systems running round-the-clock is vital to delivering client services, so it has never been more important for applications to always be available,” notes Paul Myers. “With Microsoft Azure Site Recovery, we no longer have to worry about disaster recovery—in the event of hardware failure at any of our sites, we know that all the applications and software running on virtual machines will automatically fail over to our Azure cloud. This takes the pressure off in critical situations, enabling us to deliver client services as normal.”

Solution components

- Microsoft Azure Site Recovery
- Microsoft Distributed File System
- Northdoor implementation and support services

He adds, “The fact that we can quickly and easily add more production systems to the disaster recovery environment is another big plus, particularly as the business continues to grow rapidly.”

Using Microsoft Azure Site Recovery and Distributed File System, Operis has cut its RTO to 15 minutes and slashed its recovery point objective (RPO) to just 30 seconds.

Paul Myers elaborates, “Now, in the unlikely event of complete hardware failure, only 30 seconds’ worth of data at most is lost as applications fail over to the cloud, and it takes only 15 minutes to get services back online. The Microsoft solutions enable us to rapidly restore business-critical applications and keep disruption to an absolute minimum.”

No-impact recovery plan testing, meanwhile, enables Operis to test and audit its failover plans whenever it suits the company best. “This gives us great peace of mind that our disaster recovery processes are functioning as we expect them to—without having to interrupt services,” says Paul Myers.

He concludes, “With Microsoft and Northdoor, we successfully deployed a fast, flexible and reliable disaster recovery solution. The speed and simplicity of the solutions give me confidence that our most critical client-facing applications are well-protected, and that we can be sure of providing the best service to clients no matter what.”

Microsoft Partner



Gold Cloud Platform
Gold Data Platform
Gold Data Analytics
Gold Application Development
Silver Collaboration and Content

