



How St. Bernard's Hospital secured remote tape backups with HPE and ATTO

Introduction

Learn how St. Bernard's Hospital, a division of Gibraltar Health Authority, enhanced data protection and disaster recovery with the ATTO XstreamCORE 8200T. This solution, when combined with HPE StoreEver MSL3040 Tape Library, enabled remote tape backup, overcoming limitations of their previous infrastructure and facilitating compliance with industry regulations. As a result, the hospital achieved improved data security, enhanced disaster recovery readiness, and cost-effective expansion.

The challenge

St. Bernard's Hospital faced significant data protection challenges. Its existing tape-based backup infrastructure, relying on direct-attached SAS storage in a D2D2T¹ architecture lacked the off-site capabilities necessary for robust disaster recovery. With the tape library confined to the primary data center, the hospital was highly vulnerable to data loss from local disasters or system failures and struggled to meet stringent healthcare data retention compliance requirements. The organization needed a remote tape backup solution with improved security features to address these critical vulnerabilities.

The solution

To address these challenges, St. Bernard's Hospital deployed the ATTO XstreamCORE 8200T, which acts as a bridge between the provider's local storage and an off-site HPE StoreEver MSL3040 Tape Library with enhanced security.

This enables the seamless backup of critical patient data to a geographically separate location, delivering high availability, access control, and improved security.

XstreamCORE empowered the provider to:

- **Extend storage reach:** Efficiently back up critical patient data to a remote tape library, providing high availability and geographically distributed access control
- **Centralize backup management:** Simplify IT operations by managing backups from multiple authorized data sources across the network, improving visibility, efficiency, and error reduction
- **Enable high-speed transfers:** Leverage built-in latency management and data acceleration technologies to enable fast, reliable data transfers over iSCSI Ethernet, minimizing bottlenecks, maintaining data integrity, and improving security
- **Improve disaster recovery readiness:** Enhance off-site data protection, enabling rapid recovery from disasters, outages, or cyberattacks, minimizing downtime and data loss
- **Enhance data security and compliance:** Store patient records on tape media, protecting them from threats like ransomware and adhering to strict data retention policies (GHA GDPR and NHS UK)

Key challenges

- Growing volumes of patient records, medical imaging, and administrative data
- Geographic disaster risks, including earthquakes and tsunamis
- The need for smooth integration with existing backup software and patient administration systems
- Providing multisystem access to centralized tape libraries for efficient data archiving
- Limited connectivity options, relying solely on SAS and Ethernet networking for backup operations
- Maintaining compliance with healthcare regulations for long-term data retention and enhanced security



The Gibraltar Health Authority (GHA) was set up under the Medical (Gibraltar Health Authority) Act 1987 and its purpose is to provide healthcare in Gibraltar, which is home to just over 29,000 residents.

The GHA delivers Primary, Secondary and Mental Healthcare in Gibraltar using a Healthcare model closely linked to the National Health Service (NHS) in the United Kingdom and for this purpose some tertiary referrals are delivered in the NHS as well as in Spanish Hospitals due to the proximity.

¹ A D2D2T architecture is a backup strategy that uses disk drives for primary and secondary storage, and tape drives for backup.

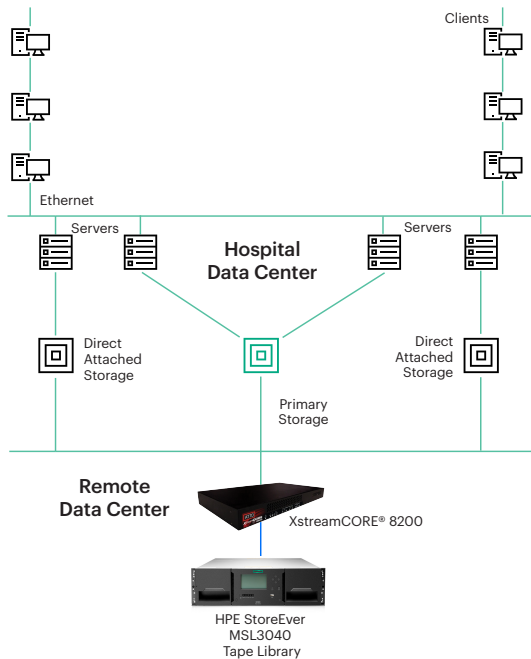


Figure 1. Hospital backup and archive workflow topology

“...XstreamCORE has been invaluable in securing our patient data. It gives us the confidence that our information is safe, recoverable, and efficiently managed, even in the face of unforeseen events.”

– **Herman Hurtado**, IT Manager, Gibraltar Health Authority



Outcomes

- Reliable remote backups, mitigating the risk of local natural disasters
- Cost-effective expansion, extending the lifespan of existing DAS storage and tape infrastructure
- Stronger data protection, providing long-term retention of patient records with improved security
- Improved efficiency, allowing IT teams to centralize and automate backup and archiving processes across multiple systems

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