

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ **Successfully migrated 25 TB of archived email from “failing” Enterprise Vault archive to Dell Archive Manager.**
- ✓ **Archive2Anywhere’s Stub Re-hydration and PowerShell automation capabilities sped migration and reduced overall project cost more than expected.**

INTRODUCTION

Programmed Group is a leading provider of staffing, maintenance and facility management services that operates across Australia and New Zealand. Programmed Group employs more than 20,000 people across a broad range of industries to provide services for more than 10,000 customers. They operate through a network of more than 100 branches, delivering multiple services from across the business.

Fueling its rapid growth, Programmed Group recently acquired a company that happened to be archiving their email with Enterprise Vault V9 with a total of 25 TB of archived data. However, Programmed Group’s email archiving platform is Dell Archive Manager 5.1. Because of this difference, there was a need to consolidate the two email archive platforms.

The “Enterprise Vault archive was an old version that had not had regular software maintenance and was in an “unhealthy” state, so we could not rely on EV’s native tools to export the archived data. We needed help to extract and move the old archive data from Enterprise Vault into Dell Archive Manager,” said Chris Spencer, ICT Technical Specialist.

PROJECT CHALLENGES

When organizations merge, it is normal to consolidate disparate email archive platforms. Most email archive solutions store archived data in proprietary database schemas. This means there is no direct migration path between solutions. Nor do email archive solutions provide robust tools to enable the export of archived data with full data integrity and chain-of-custody.

Upon close examination of the legacy Enterprise Vault Server, Programmed Group’s Chris Spencer discovered that the EV server was installed on a very old 2003 x86 server which meant it would be especially slow and difficult to add more resources to the server. Chris stated “the EV system had been left untouched for many years which caused the application to be in an unhealthy state. To complicate matters, the IT resources that actually had the skills were long gone.”

Because of this situation, Chris made the decision to consolidate the Enterprise Vault email data on the Dell Archive Manager platform, which had been kept up to date and was running on up-to-date hardware.

THE ARCHIVE360 APPROACH

For project assistance and direction, Chris turned to a trusted partner, Redmond Solutions. Redmond Solutions has the deep technical expertise handling email archive data that Chris required. Knowing that the Enterprise Vault server contained many “stubbed” emails, Chris knew that special skills and a proven application would be required to re-hydrate (recombine) the messages and stubs while maintaining full chain-of-custody and 100% data integrity for legal and regulatory compliance.

“Our partner, Redmond Solutions, introduced us to Archive360. Archive360’s email archive migration solution, Archive2Anywhere, allowed us to directly extract the data without needing to worry about the health state of Enterprise Vault using a new, more powerful x64 bit server. This more powerful server also allowed us to rehydrate the stubbed emails into Exchange on the fly to ensure our users have a trouble-free user experience,” said Chris.

Archive360 does not rely on the EV API’s; rather it connects directly to the archive SQL database for best performance and 100% data integrity. The Archive360 migration solution was installed on a virtual machine provided by Programmed and was installed and running in less than 30 minutes. After connection was established to the EV server, several migration tests were performed to fine tune the performance and ensure data fidelity.

“During our test phase, I became interested in the PowerShell integration included with the Archive360 solution. I quickly noticed that using the Archive360 V2 PowerShell integration, we could develop our own scripts which allowed us to automate the extraction of the Enterprise Vault archives to standard PST files,” said Chris. “With PowerShell, custom scripts automate repetitive tasks so that a person is not required to “click” the GUI 1000’s of times.”

Managing the rehydration of the email stubs in Exchange with the archived email in the archive was a key requirement for Programmed Group. Archive360 handled the process smoothly with no problems or project delays. Archive360 used its patented stub re-hydration process which process the stubs “in-flight” and does not require a staging server. Full chain-of-custody is provided for each message as proof of data integrity. The final step was to upload the PST files for each mailbox into Dell Archive Manager.

PROJECT RESULTS

Email archive migrations can cause many difficulties including delays and unwanted costs. Given the proprietary nature of legacy email archives and the usually “unhealthy” condition of the archive server and storage hardware, each migration project can potentially require special knowledge and handling. Archive360 is the market leader in email archive migration software, successfully migrating more than 12 petabytes of data for more than 600 organizations worldwide since 2012.

“Using Archive360, we were able to extract all the data from the legacy EV archive without impacting the application, or requiring Enterprise Vault to be bought back into a healthy state (a costly and time consuming process). Given the age of the EV hardware and our lack of expertise, Archive360 saved us a lot of cost and time,” said Chris.