

LPMA Optimises File Share Content and Accelerates SharePoint Adoption with DocAve Connector

CASE STUDY

Success Highlights

- Avoided costly, time-consuming migration to SharePoint of 8 TB of file-system content
- Reduced SharePoint timeline by 9 to 12 months
- Enabled full SharePoint presentation and management of all legacy file-share content without occupying valuable SQL Server space

Customer Profile

The Land and Property Management Authority, established under the NSW Government restructure that commenced in July 2009, is dedicated to stewarding knowledge, heritage, and responsible land management throughout New South Wales. LPMA is a pioneering force and world leader in land information and management.

The Challenge

The Land and Property Management Authority (LPMA), with its more than 1,900 employees distributed among 90 locations throughout New South Wales, has the immense responsibility of acting as a guardian and steward of all land information in New South Wales (NSW), and has quickly become a world leader in this regard.

LPMA is the direct byproduct of a government restructuring that, since July 2009, is now home to the staff and functions of the former Department of Lands, the State Property Authority, Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, Lake Illawarra Authority, Chipping Norton Lake Authority, Hunter Development Corporation, Cooks Cove Development Corporation, Festival Development Corporation, Office of Strategic Lands, Office of Biofuels, Geographical Names Board, and Board of Surveying and Spatial Information.

With all of these agencies now falling under one administrative umbrella – LPMA – there was demonstrative need to provide a single platform upon which all the geographically distributed employees statewide could access files, video conference, collaborate, share information, and manage multiple projects. Consequently, LPMA purchased Microsoft Office SharePoint Server (MOSS) 2007.

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Dr. Steven Woodhouse – Manager of Technical Services, LPMA



Land and Property Management Authority

Customer Location

New South Wales, Australia

Industry

Government

Platform

Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007: 1 Front End Web Server, 1 Application Server, 1 Index Server, 1 SQL Server

Critical Needs

- Present and manage 8 TB of file-share content within SharePoint without the need for import
- Maintain all current permissions created on legacy file shares
- Avoid a time-consuming costly migration of legacy content that could impair business continuity
- Maintain seamless, ubiquitous access for all employees dispersed throughout New South Wales

AvePoint Solution

- DocAve File Share Connector for SharePoint

As LPMA set about planning for the MOSS production farm and requisite information architecture, the matter of migrating all of its digital assets into SharePoint's SQL Server-based content database quickly became an issue. LPMA had approximately 8 terabytes (TB) of data residing in disparate file shares, and estimated that in the next two to three years it would add upwards of 3 TB to its existing content. In order to satisfy Microsoft best practices, LPMA would then need to have at least 80 SQL content databases. Furthermore, migrating all this information into its MOSS environment could leave the LPMA susceptible to business disruption and data loss if any of the documents, including vital GIS (geographic information system) data did not successfully transfer.

As such, in order to fully realise its vision of an enterprise-wide platform with which it could conduct business, LPMA required a migration-free solution for unified management and presentation of all its content within its MOSS 2007 deployment.

The AvePoint Solution

In early 2010, LPMA discovered AvePoint's *DocAve File Share Connector for SharePoint*. DocAve File Share Connector enables the "attachment" of network file-share content to SharePoint, so end-users can leverage the platform to manage and present all of their file system data – without having to migrate it into SharePoint's content databases. Though the attached content remains in the file share, end-users can interact and engage the content leveraging all of SharePoint's rich collaboration and governance functionality, including:

- Versioning
- Check-in/Check-out
- Search, including FAST
- Inherited SharePoint or File System permissions
- Workflows
- Office Client integration

"After running a proof of concept, it was clear that this would be the key to empowering us to architect an enterprise-wide SharePoint system we could actually deploy," says Dr. Steven Woodhouse, Manager of Technical Services at LPMA.

With DocAve File Share Connector deployed, LPMA swiftly attached its 8 TB of content to its MOSS 2007 environment using DocAve's intuitive interface. While LPMA still plans to migrate some content and data into SharePoint – including content for My Sites and Workspaces – it is now only considering two or three content databases as opposed to the 80-plus for which it originally planned. Furthermore, with the ability to utilise SharePoint as the presentation and management layer for all enterprise-wide file share content – with any changes made to the content via SharePoint reflected on the file share itself – employees across the organisation are able to re-organise and clean up file-share content

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via SharePoint, in order to deliver a more efficient information architecture to the platform.

The Bottom Line

Thanks to DocAve File Share Connector, LPMA greatly accelerated and enhanced its adoption of SharePoint.

"We were able to shave between 9 to 12 months off of our original timeline for our SharePoint rollout", said Dr. Woodhouse. "We will have a fully operational SharePoint deployment by the end of this calendar year. Without DocAve, that would have been extended to the end of 2011. DocAve really saved us a lot of headache in terms of planning the migration, and architecting a SharePoint environment to store all of this legacy data. It has really been one of the keys to our successful move to SharePoint."

With SharePoint and DocAve, LPMA can now engage in truly enterprise-wide collaboration, fully embrace SharePoint as its information management platform, and accelerate its use of Microsoft technologies in its mission to provide enabling technology to standardise its operations statewide.

- **True, enterprise-wide collaboration:** With DocAve File Share Connector, LPMA can keep its 8 TB of content in its legacy file shares, but still manage and present it in SharePoint without worrying about migrating all of this content into SQL content databases. By not overburdening SQL, LPMA's SharePoint deployment can run at its highest levels and scale to any level of organisation-wide collaboration on crucial data necessary for completing projects throughout NSW.
- **Accelerated and complete SharePoint adoption:** By avoiding a time-consuming, costly migration of all its content into its MOSS environment, LPMA was able to continue utilising its content with the same permissions already architected within the SharePoint interface. With that burden offloaded, LPMA estimates it has reduced its deployment timeline 9-12 months – and now has the ability to focus on other aspects of its pending SharePoint deployment, including My Sites and people search.
- **Ubiquitous access anywhere, anytime:** Having overcome the challenge of delivering and surfacing its 8 TB file-share content via SharePoint, LPMA can now focus on its mission to provide seamless access for its employees.

"Our long-term vision was to build a single place for our large, geographically dispersed organisation to collaborate so we could do business, manage projects, communicate with each other, and share information," said Dr. Woodhouse. "With SharePoint and DocAve, this has become a reality much quicker – and much more cost-effectively - than we anticipated"

About AvePoint

AvePoint is a global technology company and software innovator headquartered in the United States. Since its founding in 2001, AvePoint has become the world's largest provider of infrastructure management software solutions for Microsoft SharePoint Products and Technologies. Propelled by the world's largest SharePoint-exclusive research & development team, AvePoint is the premier provider for EPG, SMB, Mid-Market and Government organisations demanding the most powerful and flexible infrastructure management solutions for their SharePoint environments and assets. AvePoint's award-winning DocAve Software Platform is recognized as the industry standard for comprehensive and scalable SharePoint backup and recovery, administration, replication, migration, archiving, deployment management, reporting, storage optimisation, and content lifecycle management.

AvePoint is headquartered and maintains its principle engineering centre in Jersey City, NJ, with wholly owned sales and engineering centres in the USA - San Jose, Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago, Washington D.C., Houston, Boston; Melbourne, Australia; London, United Kingdom; Munich, Germany; Johannesburg, South Africa; Tokyo, Japan; Singapore; China - Beijing, Changchun, Dalian. AvePoint's global team, fortified by an expansive network of certified partners, help more than 6,000 enterprise customers – including many Fortune 500 companies and government agencies – to protect, manage, optimise, and integrate their mission-critical SharePoint environments. AvePoint is a Depth Managed Gold Certified Microsoft Partner and GSA provider.

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