



▶ Case Study: Consolidated Minerals

VALUABLE DATA WITH COMMVault® SOFTWARE
SEARCH & ARCHIVE CAPABILITIES



Industry
Mining/Manufacturing

Corporate Headquarters
West Perth, WA, Australia

www.consminerals.com.au



CHALLENGE

- Productivity was impacted when similar projects were recreated because the information wasn't archived and available to all users
- Tier one storage was being used for data that should have been archived and offloaded to less expensive storage
- Inability for end users to perform their own searches (i.e., for eDiscovery)
- Lack of a disaster recovery planning left company open to potential data loss should a disaster occur

SOLUTION

Upgrade to Commvault Software:

- Deduplication
- Replication
- Archive
- Search

BENEFITS

- Email archiving, deduplication and compression reduced, by more than 300 percent, the ongoing requirement for the amount of data to be backed up, extending the life of tier one storage by 2 years
- Enabled end-user search and access to archived email files, relieving IT staff of this burden
- Elevated disaster recovery capabilities with improved RTO



Consolidated Minerals Australia is a significant player in the global steel industry. The company produces the world's best manganese ore, which is used in the production of ferro-manganese, an essential and irreplaceable alloying element in high quality steels.

With an extensive and highly prospective tenement holding and a clear focus on operational excellence and innovation, Consolidated Minerals is looking forward to an exciting period of growth. With a variety of information challenges affecting huge amounts of potentially valuable data that was already being captured at its head office and remote sites, the Consolidated Minerals IT team understood the need for a modern data and information management strategy to support this ambitious growth trajectory.

Gordon Morris, the company's IT infrastructure manager, realised that he was already sitting on an untapped resource that had been handling a wealth of data going back to the company's inception. This data could be used to create valuable insights, if it could be made available and was searchable. Additionally, backing up to the head office on a regular basis was difficult due to limited network bandwidth available from multiple remote sites. Separate parts of the business were recreating similar data sets every 18 months with new projects and activities.

According to Morris, "Our IT department could see the impact on productivity when similar projects were recreated because the information seemed to have evaporated from organisational consciousness. We felt IT could help to solve this issue by upgrading to Simpana® software because we could extract greater business value from the data we already collected and protected, while making the data consolidation process more efficient."

"Commvault's email archiving, deduplication and compression tools have allowed us to reduce storage from 5 Terabytes to 1.5, effectively extending the life of our tier one storage for another two years."

GORDON MORRIS
*IT & Infrastructure Manager,
Consolidated Minerals*

▶ **EFFICIENT STORAGE WITH POWERFUL SEARCH FUNCTIONALITY PROVIDES EASY ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

Email archiving and enterprise search were key to reworking the organisational processes around project management and data analysis. The different parts of the business that had been "recreating the wheel" every 18 months can now deduplicate and archive old information, putting it to more efficient and productive use. "Recreating information was causing us to run out of tier one disk space. We needed a way to remove 10-year-old data from that costly storage, yet ensure that people could still access it. The enterprise archive and search functionality neatly addressed these issues in the Simpana software single data and information management platform we were already using," Morris stated.

With the ability to archive less critical data to lower storage costs, Morris was able to extend the life of Consolidated Minerals' tier one storage for another two years. Using powerful search functionality, the company's legal and human resources departments no longer need to contact the

IT helpdesk to search for old documents. All email is now completely searchable, and anything older than six months is archived, with completely transparent end-user accessibility.

“End users don’t need to understand that their data has essentially been removed from their mailboxes; they can see the Simpana software icon and they know they can click through to the information they need. The real benefit is doing away with personal folders and archives, which gives us more control over corporate data while making recovery and access to emails, documents and files more convenient for our employees,” said Morris.

Should Consolidated Minerals need to conduct any legal discovery, entire email trails on any particular topic can provide better context, a vast improvement on the fragmented conversations that came from ad hoc archiving. “Things are much more straightforward for the end user and, as an organization, we have regained control over email from a compliance perspective,” said Morris.

► DEDUPLICATION AND REPLICATION FEATURES PROVIDE BUSINESS CONTINUITY ASSURANCE

Operating across metropolitan areas and remote locations means that there is always the potential for all kinds of weather and power challenges that could lead to downtime and data loss. And with five terabytes of email, files, technical drawings and modelling data to back up every week, it was impossible for Consolidated Minerals to transmit all its data to offsite backup.

With Simpana software in place, the issues of data availability and business continuity no longer worry Morris; the software offers Morris flexible ways to protect and recover the data with no impact to the business. Morris enlists the synthetic full backup process, data deduplication and compression capabilities offered by Simpana software for a complete disaster recovery solution. In addition to backing up all of the corporation’s data, his team can reliably and efficiently replicate critical data to the remote mining site.

“Prior to implementing Simpana [software], we didn’t back up the remote site to Perth because it simply wasn’t feasible to bring down 800 gigabytes of data from a site to Perth every week. But with the Simpana [software] deduplication and compression functionality, we’ve slashed the size of our weekly backup, so now it’s done each Sunday night like clockwork,” commented Morris.

“We now have three layers of backup: disk onsite, tape onsite and full replication disk in Perth. If we lose data at any one of our sites — and we’ve been through this scenario — we can restore the data to Perth and make it available at the remote site whilst we sort out any hardware issue that has occurred. Even in the event of catastrophic hardware failure, we can still provision data to the business and keep our operations running,” said Morris.

The Expanding Role of Backup and Recovery in the Hybrid Enterprise

Read the six strategies for data protection in a hybrid enterprise that will not only help solve your current data management challenges, but also ensure that you’re poised to meet future demands.

READ NOW



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▶ PARTNERING WITH COMMVAULT PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR SMART DATA MANAGEMENT

With only a small IT staff, Consolidated Minerals was able to leverage Commvault's Professional Services team to assist with integrating the Simpana software upgrade and has regular access to Support for assistance with version upgrades or to discuss Consolidated Minerals' infrastructure refresh plans.

According to Morris, the availability of this additional support is invaluable for their small team. "On an ongoing basis, we are able to consult with the Commvault Support team to plan changes, and they are quick to understand our needs and meet our expectations."

The practicality of the new solution also afforded Morris the time and flexibility he needed to make practical recommendations for handling potential disaster scenarios.

"We had a disaster where a server in the gold fields just stopped, preventing the site from working properly. A field technician reported that the server was broken and needed replacing. Since we'd implemented Simpana software for replication and business continuity, we were able to effectively provision a full copy of that site's data from elsewhere, using the recently backed up information and got the local team back to work quicker," concluded Morris.

▶ CONSOLIDATED MINERALS AT-A-GLANCE

PLATFORM/FILE SYSTEM



APPLICATIONS



▶ To learn more about the full benefits of Commvault software and its strategic approach to efficient data management, please visit commvault.com/solutions.

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