

# case STUDY



**Client:** Laitram Corporation

**Industry:** Manufacturing

**Technologies:** Oracle® Database  
Oracle® ERP  
NetApp® SnapMirror®  
VMware® SRM

## Challenge:

Laitram's prior BC model for their Oracle ERP environment relied heavily on RMAN processes. Over time, their environment grew more and more complex. At the same time, they were working to simplify their non-ERP systems' Business Continuity processes by using existing storage and virtualization technologies.

## Solution:

Laitram decided to use VMware SRM as their primary Disaster Recovery (DR) mechanism. They also implemented NetApp SnapMirror, which offers enterprise protection of SAN volumes by completing point-in-time snapshots and then replicating them to their DR site.

## Results:

Laitram Information Technology Services eliminated the reconfiguration of the Oracle E-Business Suite (EBS) application, significantly reducing the risk involved with the human error factor. Laitram was able to reduce the entire ERP business continuity process to well under two hours, a reduction of more than 60%, and thereby greatly improving their production ERP SLAs with the business.

## Laitram Improves Efficiency of Business Continuity Process by More Than 60%

### The Company

Laitram L.L.C. is a global manufacturing company that has been part of the Louisiana business landscape for more than 50 years. Laitram is comprised of four operating divisions - Intralox L.L.C., Laitram Machinery, Inc., Lapeyre Stair, Inc., and Laitram Machine Shop L.L.C. Laitram holds nearly 900 patents and employs over 1,800 people worldwide.

### The Challenge

Laitram's previous Business Continuity model for the Oracle Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) environment relied heavily on RMAN processes and file system synchronization tasks to ensure that data was consistent between their primary site in New Orleans and their secondary site in Dallas.

Over several years, their environment grew more and more complex as they advanced through the phases of their Oracle Implementation project and continued to add components. At the same time, they were working to simplify their non-ERP systems' Business Continuity processes by using existing storage and virtualization technologies, such as NetApp SnapMirror and VMware SRM. Laitram's Information Technology Services team knew the value of using these same technologies for their Oracle ERP environment, but they wanted validation of their proposed changes by experts in the field.

"Having used House of Brick for past Oracle ERP and VMware engagements, we immediately decided to leverage their expertise on the subject before making changes to our ERP environment." said Emile Combe, IT Enterprise Data Architect.

### The Solution

Laitram decided to use VMware SRM as their primary Disaster Recovery (DR) mechanism. SRM enabled the VMs to move over with a minimum of effort and reconfiguration and allowed their business to be back up and running in the shortest amount of time. In the event of a Business Continuity event, or in almost all unplanned DR events, VMware SRM alone will be enough to get their Oracle EBS systems back online.

“*House of Brick has become a model to which we hold other business partners accountable... We’re confident that we can rely on House of Brick to assist us when it comes to architecting and designing our critical business systems.*”

**Emile Combe**  
IT Enterprise Data Architect

Laitram also implemented NetApp SnapMirror, which offers enterprise protection of SAN volumes by completing point-in-time snapshots and then replicating them to their DR site. These copies can then be mounted by VMware SRM in the event of a DR situation or to test DR in a controlled SRM network fence.

### The Results

Laitram Information Technology Services eliminated the reconfiguration of the Oracle E-Business Suite (EBS) application, significantly reducing the risk involved with the human error factor. Laitram was able to reduce the entire ERP business continuity process to well under two hours, a reduction of more than 60%, and thereby greatly improving their production ERP SLAs with the business.

This project has instilled confidence in Laitram’s CIO office that their IT team can provide greatly reduced down-time during a business continuity event. It has also reduced the complexity of the business continuity process and at the same time significantly reduced the number of combined man-hours required to perform the necessary steps.

“IT is pleased with the positive business impact of this project, which always drives our strategies,” said Combe. “This effort provided reduced IT maintenance costs as well as reduced downtime for critical Production ERP systems during a business continuity event.”

## WHY VIRTUALIZE BCS?

Below are seven reasons why you should consider virtualizing your Business Critical Systems (BCS).

- ① Cost Reduction
- ② Optimize Licenses
- ③ High Availability
- ④ Near 100% Reliable Disaster Recoverability
- ⑤ Product Development Process Optimization
- ⑥ Test/QA Process Improvement
- ⑦ Security Considerations

## VIRTUALIZATION AND CLOUD COMPUTING FOR BUSINESS CRITICAL SYSTEMS

House of Brick is the recognized industry leader in the virtualization of business-critical systems. Having consulted with dozens of the Fortune 500 companies, as well as many SMB enterprises, House of Brick has the experience and expertise to make the virtualization of your business-critical applications and systems successful. House of Brick provides an array of consulting services focused on virtualization and cloud technologies.

The professionals at House of Brick are on top of the latest developments in hardware, software applications, networking and data security.

They can provide comprehensive consulting services and act as mentors to your IT staff, or play a larger role in your daily operations through their Managed Consulting Services program. Whether your needs are immediate and temporary or forward-thinking and long-term, the House of Brick team stands ready to provide the Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery services essential to keep your business running.