

# case STUDY

## Manufacturer Implements SRM and Reduces Overhead While Improving Data Safety

### The Challenge

Recently House of Brick worked with a major manufacturer on a project to ensure that all of their tier-one business critical applications were protected by a rock solid Disaster Recovery (DR) solution. Due to the threat of natural disasters that all businesses face, the client had already invested considerable effort and capital into a VMware Site Recovery Manager (SRM) solution that covered most of their tier-one business critical systems. Their only remaining challenge was to integrate their key Oracle E-Business Suite (EBS) infrastructure into their DR system as efficiently as possible while satisfying their Recovery Point Objective (RPO) and Recovery Time Objective (RTO).

The client's EBS infrastructure was already protected by a mixture of Oracle Data Guard and custom scripts to duplicate EBS key application server files to a remote site. While workable, and satisfying RPO constraints, this system required extensive manual effort and time to transition to the DR site, therefore the RTO was not being met. The EBS DR scenario was further complicated by related applications, such as Kronos for time-keeping and Noetix for Business Intelligence, that were tied into the EBS solution and needed to be considered part of the EBS infrastructure and equally protected by DR.

### The Solution

This client engaged House of Brick to assess and analyze their Oracle E-Business solution in order to architect a business continuity and disaster recovery plan that would protect their virtualized EBS environment.

House of Brick performed a comprehensive assessment, that identified the clients disaster recovery vision, including RPO and RTO constraints, and evaluated storage architecture and application constraints. They then presented the client with a hybrid implementation plan to use VMware SRM in conjunction with NetApp level snapshots to protect EBS as well as Oracle Data Guard to provide an extra layer of safety for critical data. This implementation plan accounted for all the details required for relocating such a complex application stack as EBS. Storage consistency groups and logical application groups for SRM were identified and clearly laid out so as to ensure that the EBS infrastructure could transition smoothly to the recovery site.

In the hybrid approach presented to the client, SRM is used to protect the entire EBS suite for business continuity purposes. The use of SRM significantly improves the recovery time required to switch operations to the recovery site and thus brings the EBS stack in line with the clients desired RTO. By unifying the EBS DR plan with existing SRM-based DR planning, the operational complexity of administration and testing was greatly reduced for the client. The use of Oracle Data Guard, in a manner compatible with SRM, guaranteed RPO compliance and a secondary fallback safety net to ensure that no critical data would be lost - even in an unplanned DR event.

### The Results

Implementation of the House of Brick proposed SRM plan greatly reduced operational complexity and overhead for this client. The client's goals for improved data safety were also met by adding a second layer of protection to key Oracle databases.

