# Actifio Delivers Speed, Availability and Effective Disaster Recovery for JBS Australia

Copy Data Virtualisation Enables Rapid Backup and Recovery Capabiltiies across Central and Remote Datacentres Delivering Scalable, SLA-based Enterprise Data Management

## The Summary

JBS Australia is a division of the world's largest meat company, supplying food products to more than 80 countries from over 20 facilities within Australia. After massive floods in Queensland in 2011, its IT group worked to overhaul its business continuity capabilities and improve its backup processes with Actifio. A number of acquisitions expanded the company's footprint to over 12,000 employees and dozens of processing plants, distribution centres, feedlots and stores. Again, it turned to Actifio to provide resiliency for its expanded operations. The Actifio Sky appliance provided enterprise-class data management and disaster recovery capabilities that JBS could standardize on for its new remote sites—helping keep its critical data available so the company could stay in compliance with industry regulations.

Actifio has helped JBS cut backup times from 42 hours to 15 minutes and enabled recoveries in as little as 15 minutes as well. By cutting prior backup infrastructure costs, JBS expects to save over a quarter of a million dollars.

## Key Facts

**WHO:** JBS Australia, the largest meat processor in Australia, serving 80 countries with more than 12,000 employees and dozens of facilities.

**CHALLENGES:** Initially, disaster recovery and backup modernization for its core data centers. After acquisitions, JBS needed a fast, effective and standardized solution to protect the application data in its new facilities.

**KEY APPS:** VMware vSphere, Microsoft SQL Server, SAP, Microsoft Exchange, Windows file servers, Microsoft SQL Server, Red Hat Linux.

**SOLUTION:** Expanding its existing Actifio footprint with Actifio Sky for new remote and departmental datacenters

**SAVINGS:** Nearly $500,000 from the elimination of tape backup infrastructure, and a huge reduction in labor costs from the staff time to manage backups recoveries

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## About JBS Australia

As part of the world's largest meat company, JBS Australia's reach extends across the country and across continents. With nearly a dozen meat processing plants, seven distribution centre and five feedlots, JBS Australia is capable of processing more than 8,000 cattle and 21,000 small stock each day and exports product to more than 80 countries.

Continuing its path for growth, JBS Australia purchased Sydney-based Andrews Meat Industries as well as Primo Group, the largest ham, bacon and smallgoods producer in Australia and New Zealand in 2014 and early 2015 respectively. The move added six additional processing plants and 35 retail stores to its portfolio as well as another 4,000 employees, supported by an IT department of only 40.

## The Challenge

JBS Australia first turned to Actifio following massive flooding across Queensland in 2011. Flooding had caused more than two billion dollars in damage across the state and brought JBS Australia's production to a halt. While it didn't lose any systems as a result of the disaster, the event exposed vulnerabilities in the company's technology environment. Mark Pearce, the Infrastructure/Technical Manager for JBS Australia knew the company needed a better business continuity and disaster recovery strategy, particularly as its existing backup process was a major issue.

"We had always relied on to tape-to-tape back-ups but backing up the huge amount of data coming from sites across the country was almost unfeasible. The team was spending up to four hours a day and more than $75,000 a year in labour costs just checking, managing and resolving backup issues. And the fact that we potentially would not be able to react quickly enough was a sobering thought for the company," said Pearce.

JBS operations nationwide rely on a critical application infrastructure based on VMware vSphere, SAP running on Microsoft SQL Server, other SQL databases, and Microsoft Exchange. For some of these systems, the backup pains had become acute: Continuous backup job failures and long restore times; incremental back-ups that could take up to half a day to complete; and a single backup of its Exchange email system that would take more than 40 hours. The administration overhead JBS Australia had for managing all of the tape systems at its numerous sites was also becoming a cumbersome problem.

## The Solution

JBS Australia was already a happy Actifio customer, having deployed Actifio Sky first at its two biggest sites and then across the rest of its processing plants and distribution centres. Following JBS Australia's purchase of Andrews Meat Industries and Primo Group, however, Pearce wanted to continue realising the dramatic savings in storage costs and resources as well as improved agility and resiliency across the group.

"With the immediate benefits we saw from switching to Actifio in our original sites, we saw no reason not to continue using it to create more streamlined operations as we expanded. Many of the newly acquired sites had been running with a degree of independence, making them harder to manage and creating opportunities for human error. Actifio has proven critical in helping us ensure the highest possible standards at each of our new sites—particularly in being able to provide the product traceability required by industry regulations," said Pearce.

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## The Results

Pearce says deploying Actifio changed JBS Australia's entire IT landscape for the better. Since its initial deployment, JBS Australia has at least halved the backup and recovery times for business critical databases and VMs. Backups at the head-office that used to take 42 hours to complete, now take just 15 minutes.

"Actifio has dramatically improved our ability to respond effectively to critical situations. In the event of an emergency, we can now replicate a site within 15 minutes—something we simply could not have done with our traditional tape backups. It's a real game changer," added Pearce.

Pearce has seen a similar improvement in restore times. "It used to take up to a day to find, retrieve, and catalogue tapes for a restore. Now, we can pull up everything we need in a few minutes."

With Actifio, JBS Australia has also reduced costs typically associated with regulatory back-ups. Pearce says despite the company's dramatic growth, it has not had to purchase any additional storage disks since Actifio was first deployed.

"Instead of increasing our storage footprint each year, we're now able to eliminate more tapes than ever. So far, we've rid ourselves of 2,500 tapes, and we expect to continue reducing our storage costs with Actifio," said Pearce.

The cost savings means the JBS Australia expects to see a full return on investment within three years—a timeframe that Pearce believes may shorten as Actifio is added across more of its newest sites.

## Next Steps

JBS Australia plans to continue evaluating each of its new sites to determine what solutions are needed and how Actifio can continue benefitting the wider business. It soon intends to deploy Actifio solutions at the Primo processing plant in Wacol—the largest meat processing facility operating in the Southern Hemisphere.

Pearce says he is also considering upgrading to the latest version of Actifio to bring greater automation to JBS Australia's application testing and development environments.

"With Actifio, our team can easily stand up and configure test systems, meaning we can migrate virtual machines - something we were previously unable to do. With the latest updates to Actifio, we want to take it one step further by allowing our dev teams to spin off their own testing environments."

"It's a great feeling to know that we made the right choice with Actifio. We went in looking for a better backup and recovery system, but we found something that has improved every aspect of our IT. We finally have a big picture about all of our production systems, how much data we've got there and how critical it is to the business," said Pearce.