



An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection

A safety net for society built on HPE 3PAR

Ireland’s Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection chooses flash storage arrays

Industry

Government

Objective

Minimize the impact of increasing times for batch processing and backup while providing a storage platform to scale for the future

Approach

Identify solutions to eliminate system bottlenecks—all-flash arrays and upgraded switching fabric

IT matters

- Speeds batch payment processing by 75% (from 4 hrs. to less than 1 hr.)
- Enables speedy recovery of backup data (1 TB in 30 min.)
- Delivers performance benefits with no business disruption or learning curve

Business matters

- Ensures reliable delivery of €20 billion in benefit checks yearly
- Requires only 1.5 FTEs to manage entire storage network
- Meets strict GDPR requirements while providing a scalable platform for growth



With millions of citizens relying on its services, Ireland’s Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection needed to speed its client payment environment. The department chose all-flash storage arrays to boost its batch processing times by 75% while positioning itself for massive scalability.

A lifetime of data

What if an agency tracked the entire cycle of every human life in a country from before birth to after death, and every milestone in between? If you think that sounds like a lot of data, you’d be right.

Just ask Declan Ryan, Datacentre Services Manager for the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection in Ireland. “It’s our job to help people through every stage of life,” Ryan explains.

“Before they’re born, we might be supporting someone through a maternity grant. When they enter the education system, they may receive a back to school allowance, then a college grant. If they get sick, we support them through their illness. When they get married, or have children of their own, we’re there. Then it’s paying a pension or a death benefit,” Ryan says.



“Moving to HPE 3PAR all-flash storage was an easy upgrade for us because we already know the platform. Now we’re getting stellar performance and there was no learning curve whatsoever.”

– Declan Ryan, Datacentre Services Manager for the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection in Ireland

HPE 3PAR for Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Ireland

- Boosts batch payment processing by **75%**
- Ensures speedy recovery of backup data—**1 TB** in **30 minutes**



Stored for eternity

And the organization has to keep that data on every person forever. “With new GDPR compliance, this becomes even more critical,” Ryan explains. “We can’t be taking any chances with how we handle our data.”

As the kinds and amounts of data such agencies collect have grown exponentially over the years, their storage environments have needed to continually expand to keep pace. “In 1999, we had 900 gigabytes of data. Today, it’s 2.5 petabytes,” Ryan points out.

Evolving priorities

So how does that eternal storage conundrum affect procurement decisions in the here-and-now? It’s a major reason the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection has relied on products from HPE for decades.

“It’s a relationship that goes back to the 1980s,” Ryan recalls. “First it was Digital, then Compaq, then HP, and now HPE. When HP came out with the ESA line, we bought one early on, and became the first in Ireland to have a Storage Area Network. We retired that unit just months ago.”

Today, the department relies on a combination of HPE EVA Storage and **HPE 3PAR Storage**, with models ranging from 7400, V400, and 8440, to the latest 8450 all-flash system.

Downtime is not an option

For Ryan and team, it’s been a continuous evolution of managing and protecting that crucial data. Their primary application is a business-object-modeling database that is responsible for generating payments to the public. “We pay out €20 billion every year in pensions, disability, child services and the like,” Ryan explains. “Failure is not an option.”

So when the team began running into bottlenecks with batch payment generation and backup and restore times, the department needed to find a solution to keep payment schedules on track.

Internal testing revealed that the bottleneck was occurring at the switch fabric and storage layer. Consulting with their on-site HPE Datacenter Care engineer and HPE sales staff, a remedy was proposed.

Pure performance, no disruption

In order to boost batch processing and backup/recovery times, Ryan and team chose HPE 3PAR StoreServ 8440 and 8450 All-Flash Storage and Brocade Director-series switching. The move to all flash from their existing 3PAR environment enabled the team at the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection to effectively increase performance while avoiding business disruption.



Case study

Department of
Employment Affairs
and Social Protection

Industry

Government



Customer at a glance

Hardware

- HPE 3PAR StoreServ 8440 and 8450 All-Flash Storage
- Brocade Director-series switches

HPE Pointnext services

- HPE Datacenter Care

“Moving to HPE 3PAR all-flash storage was an easy upgrade for us because we already know the platform,” Ryan says. “Now we’re getting stellar performance and there was no learning curve whatsoever.”

The combination of all-flash storage and the switching fabric upgrade have eliminated the bottleneck. “Now, the servers can’t keep up with the storage,” Ryan relates.

Benefits for millions

For Ryan and team, the improvement is massive. “Since moving to 3PAR all-flash storage and Brocade switches, our batch processing window for payments has dropped by up to 75%,” Ryan explains. “What used to take four hours can now be done in less than an hour, which is a great result for our team.”

And the team’s backup and recovery times have diminished as well. “With SSD in our storage network, we can now recover a terabyte in 30 minutes,” Ryan says. “It’s a very impressive amount of data to restore in a half-hour.”

But the ultimate benefit for the department is reliability. “With all the critical data we have on this system, the most important thing to us is that it just works,”

Ryan explains. “We don’t get any complaints, we don’t lose any data, and we can manage all this with just 1.5 staff members. Yes, performance is important, but reliability is our top priority, and HPE 3PAR gives us both with no tradeoffs.”

Integrated support, lasting relationships

As data requirements continue to evolve, and the population continues to grow, Ryan knows there will be challenges in the future, but with the support of **HPE Pointnext**, he’s confident they can overcome those obstacles. “We see our team from Pointnext as part of our staff,” Ryan says. “We’ve had one engineer with us for 22 years, and he’s an integral part of our team—we couldn’t manage without him.”

It’s an example that illuminates the trust and collaboration between the department and HPE. “We have one job—to keep this data safe and secure for all time—and our ongoing relationship with HPE over 40 years has helped us minimize business disruption while keeping us a step ahead of requirements,” Ryan says. “It just works.”



Make the right purchase decision. Click here to chat with our presales specialists.

✉ Share now

📺 Get updates

