

A photograph of three business professionals in an office setting. A woman with blonde hair is speaking to a man in a suit who is looking at a document. Another man is partially visible on the left, looking at a laptop.

Disaster recovery solution makes AIK Bank's IT infrastructure and business more resilient

As AIK Bank's business grew and customer base expanded, there was a need to further improve the company's IT infrastructure.

The Bank recognized that it needed to implement a Disaster Recovery solution to be able to guarantee a higher level of availability and added security to its customers.

CHALLENGES >



In light of the new regulations issued by the National Bank of Serbia, AIK Bank had to implement a Disaster Recovery (DR) solution in its business operations.

In today's highly competitive banking market, having a DR plan is no longer an option, it's a necessity. AIK Bank knows that every minute its system is down, it could lead to potential revenue loss, not to mention reputation damage and loss of standing with its clients. As one of the leading banks on the Serbian market, it was important for AIK Bank to provide its customers with peace of mind that they can always count on their services.

To do this, AIK Bank needed to improve its existing IT system and implement a robust DR solution, which would ensure that unplanned outage of all or any part of the IT system would not impact the Bank's employees and customers.

One of the main challenges was the creation of procedures for the implementation of a DR solution in the Bank's vast IT system. It was necessary to implement the solution without any interruptions or changes to the IT system. Furthermore, the DR procedures had to be highly automated and segmented according to services. The biggest challenge was enabling the recovery of individual services or the entire IT system in just a few clicks and transferring services or the entire system to the secondary data center in the shortest amount of time possible, with minimal disruptions to services.

AIK Bank decided to engage Comtrade System Integration for the job based on the best price, quality of service, as well as previous successful cooperation between the two companies.

AT A GLANCE

> Client

AIK Bank

> Industry

Banking and finance

> Challenges

- Introduce procedures for DR solution implementation into a large IT system
- Implement DR solution without disruptions or downtime
- Segment DR procedures according to services
- Service or entire IT system recovery to be completed in a few clicks

> Business benefits

- Increased security for customers and critical IT systems
- Higher level of availability for customers
- Guaranteed business continuity in the event of a disaster, IT system or single component failure
- DR requirements prescribed by the National Bank of Serbia are met

> Technology

- VMware software – Site Recovery Manager (SRM)

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“Based on the previous work Comtrade System Integration has done for us, we had no hesitation engaging their team for this project.”

Milan Pavlovic Head of System Support, AIK Bank

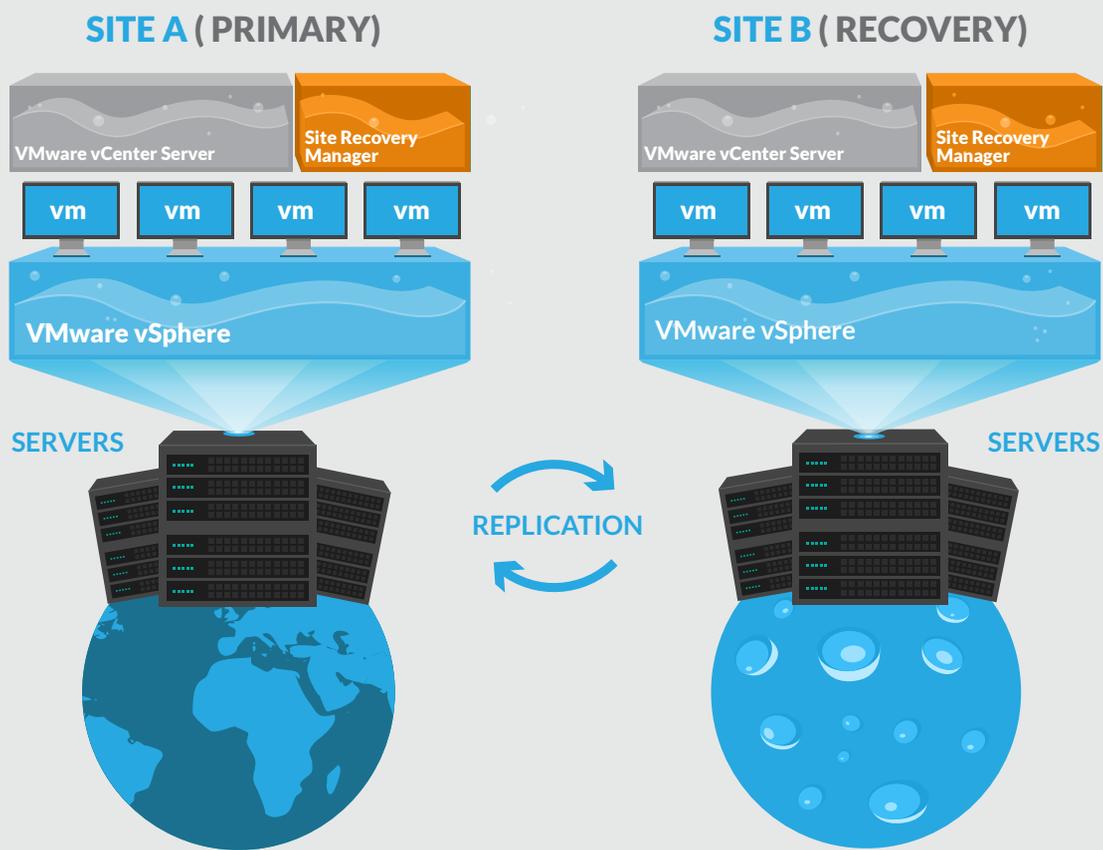


FIGURE 1

Disaster recovery solution

OUR SOLUTION



- After analyzing AIK Bank's IT infrastructure, Comtrade SI recommended a software solution that is capable of meeting all of the client's requirements – VMware's Site Recovery Manager (SRM).

SRM, a leading disaster recovery software on the market, is designed for the automation of DR procedures. The product enables replication of a server from one data center to another, bi-directional replication, starting up the entire IT system or only a part of it in just a few clicks, while making required changes to all services so they can be seamlessly transferred to the secondary data center with little disruptions to the services. The implementation of the SRM solution was divided into two stages – first at the primary data center and then at the secondary data center location.

Among other reasons, SRM solution was chosen because it enabled Comtrade SI to test all DR procedures within an isolated network and without causing downtime for the Bank's clients and employees.



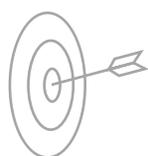


Our prior work with AIK Bank set the grounds for the DR solution implementation. Prior to SRM, Comtrade SI successfully completed several projects for AIK Bank, including migration from Hyper-V platform to VMware platform, consolidation of physical servers to a virtual environment, reconfiguration of storage systems at the primary site and configuration of the new server and storage system at the disaster recovery site.

RESULTS DELIVERED



The experience of Comtrade SI combined with close cooperation with AIK Bank was invaluable in creating a success story: an enhanced IT system and a robust Disaster Recovery solution, which strengthened the Bank's IT resiliency. Furthermore, the solution allowed AIK Bank to gain additional benefits and do much more than originally required.



The greatest benefits are automation, platform stability and 24/7 system availability. Now, AIK Bank is able to provide its customers with an additional level of security and higher levels of service availability. In the event of a natural disaster, service outage or IT system failure, downtime is minimal enabling employees and customers to do business as usual.

Successful completion of the project and a good working relationship resulted in a maintenance contract and further cooperation between AIK Bank and Comtrade SI.

ABOUT AIK BANK

Founded in 1976, for almost two decades AIK Banka AD Beograd was the internal bank of Agroindustrijski kombinat Niš. In the 1990s, the bank started commercial operations and began providing universal banking services. In the same period, the bank went public and its shares were listed on the Belgrade Stock Exchange. Today, the bank has more than 6,000 shareholders and for years now its shares have been among the most liquid securities traded on the Belgrade Stock Exchange. With over EUR 620 million in savings, the bank is recognized as a reliable partner in both retail and corporate sectors.

ABOUT COMTRADE

Comtrade is a leading IT organization in South East Europe specializing in the fields of IT solutions, system integration and hardware distribution. With more than 900 satisfied customers and offices across Europe and the USA, Comtrade has become a recognized name on the global stage. Founded in 1990, Comtrade now employs over 1,500 business and IT experts, including 1,000+ software engineers. With a proven track record of delivering IT solutions and services that help reduce business complexities and costs, we are a trusted technology partner to medium and enterprise businesses.

ABOUT COMTRADE SYSTEM INTEGRATION

Comtrade System Integration is focused on helping businesses enhance performance and efficiency through our innovative system integration services. The company was founded in 2001 and employs more than 200 IT professionals with top industry certifications. Through our partnerships with global technology leaders, including Microsoft, Oracle, IBM and EMC we offer premium IT products, professional services and expertise in design, development and integration of systems and applications. Over the years, our portfolio has grown to include networking, virtualization, data migration, infrastructure software solutions and other services.