

CONSOLIDATED BEARING COMPANY

The Consolidated Bearing Company was formed in 1954 to meet an increasing demand across Australia for new components and technology for bearings of all types. Having built up a portfolio of international manufacturers, the company supplies the most respected brands in bearings to industry sites and factory floors throughout Australia. CBC has Australia's largest inventory of bearings and a comprehensive distribution network with more than 600 personnel operating in more than 60 branches Australia-wide.



THE BUSINESS NEED

A "near disaster" Business Continuity event – a fire – reinforced Group Infrastructure Manager Rick Masjuk's intention to seriously address the need for a High Availability Replication solution that would protect the entire network of CBC offices across Australia. This requirement was reinforced by the fact that ten Regional Offices ran a separate iSeries system with each undertaking its own tape backup procedures. "There was no single 'command centre' where all the information was securely stored and readily accessible, no replication process and should an unplanned outage have occurred, a host of other system set-up issues would have also gone awry," he says.

THE DECISION

Rick therefore looked closely at how CBC could implement an effective and affordable HA and DR solution across the entire business. Utilising the company's New South Wales site to house an iSeries Model 650 - 2240, he began to assess a variety of offerings. An initial assessment quickly singled out Maximum Availability's *noMAX solution as the preferred choice. 'A number of products on the market were application layered, which didn't appeal. Others looked to have simply re-hashed old code. Some looked promising but on closer scrutiny didn't convince me that they could adequately deliver the solution against the criteria I had set.'

Of particular importance to CBC was the requirement that the chosen product could be quickly and cost-effectively implemented. "I had heard horror stories from other companies that had to have a consultant on-site for a month or more to get a solution up and running. I just wasn't interested in that. I wanted a product that could be quickly loaded up and going in a few days. *noMAX was the only HA and DR offering that could give us this – and without compromising the quality of delivery we were expecting."

THE OUTCOME

*noMAX's use of native OS/400 features makes the product a 'technically optimised solution' states Rick. "Being able to see the product in a live demo environment at the very beginning played a big part in my purchasing decision. *noMAX pricing was also very competitive."

And one of the most appealing aspects of the *noMAX Suite of Products, notes Rick, is the ability to easily self-install. 'Being able to install *noMAX myself was a big plus.

The *noMAX team, while always being on call, didn't have to be onsite – the installation was all done remotely. Further to this, we did some very comprehensive training with a number of staff, but again this was all completed via the web. It was so easy.'

Daily maintenance and management of CBC's *noMAX solution has also been as straightforward as the implementation. "We might have had two fixes - at the most - in all this time but they were easily sorted remotely and very quickly. This also applies to upgrades and the fact that I can deploy *noMAX as-and-when I see fit. For example, we recently had the need to install the solution on our payroll system. When we needed it – we could deploy it. It's a simple as that."

The initial implementation has been so successful that CBC are now migrating to the *noMAX garrison product. This will give them the capability to replicate data, objects and IFS - all of which will provide comprehensive and secure protection of the company's critical business information.

"*noMAX was the only High Availability and Disaster Recovery Solution that could deliver CBC the combination of flexibility, reliability and ease-of-use that we required."

Rick Masjuk
Group Infrastructure Manager, Consolidated Bearing Company