

# A project that transforms strategic activities

Rovagnati enhances the operation of its logistics, production and administration systems with new technology that delivers reliability



Food Production | Italy

## Organisation needs

Rovagnati needed high performance and uptime of close to 100 percent. It wanted its systems to be completely redundant and to automate processes, so any failure would not disrupt operations. To improve reliability, Rovagnati decided to update its servers, storage and network equipment.

## Solutions at a glance

- [Data Center](#)
- [Enterprise Support](#)
- [Networking](#)
- [Storage](#)

## Organisation results

- High availability of the data centre and business continuity for production and logistics systems
- Optimised network has increased data speeds tenfold
- Faster decision making by doubling processing speeds
- Halved recovery times and reduced risks of service interruption

# 4x

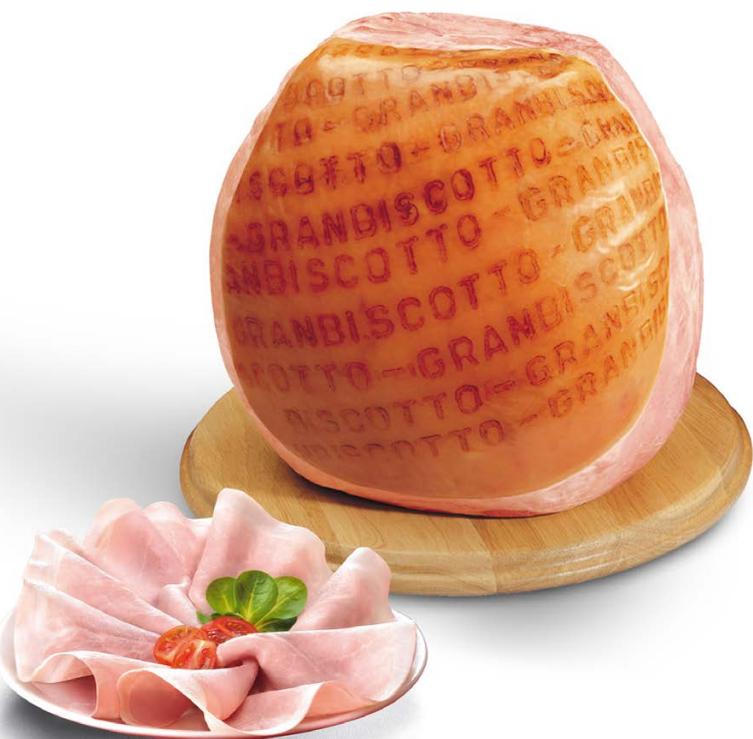
quicker storage supports better application performance



# 25%

reduction in data centre management time





Italy-based Rovagnati is one of the best-known brands for cooked and uncooked ham, salami, and Italian specialties such as mortadella and bresaola. Since 2000, the company has been automating its logistics and production, investing in IT to improve the effectiveness of operations and decision-making processes. With new systems in place, the organisation has boosted performance and increased the efficiency of project launches and international strategies.

The project, which involved Rovagnati's core strategic activities, was divided into several phases. It covered two offices at Villasanta, which are responsible for products and logistics, and the company's headquarters and factory at Biassono, where cooked hams are produced.

## Existing tech needs a refresh

Rovagnati has automated its logistics processes to enable it to fulfil customer orders faster. The data for foodstuff production—in this case for cured meats—requires close monitoring. IT has a key role in this because it supports the manufacturing execution system (MES), enterprise resource planning (ERP) system and logistics. IT also helps administer orders, promotions and contracts.

“To guarantee the quality of the data, we needed a robust infrastructure,” says Andrea Melesi, IT director at Rovagnati. “Our improvement project, which also saw the migration from Unix AIX to Linux systems, aimed to deliver increased reliability and performance of our data centre, with a goal of ensuring uptime of near to 100 percent. In addition, the speed of the processors and storage in our legacy systems wasn't good enough. It took hours to calculate the main key performance indicators, and this delayed our decision making.”

## Improved reliability as a primary objective

Working with Dell EMC Platinum Partner DISC, Rovagnati transformed its IT at the Villasanta and Biassono locations. In the first phase, the company implemented the redundancy of virtual environments in the Villasanta production system. Business continuity was also extended thanks to two Dell EMC SC Series 5020 arrays with Live Volume technology and VMware.

*“We have cut the time for data centre management by 25 percent, so we can devote more resources to serving our internal customers and to supporting business.”*

Andrea Melesi, IT director at Rovagnati

The second phase involved updating the old Biassono network to achieve the best possible reliability and safety standards. The final phase required the replacement of the server and storage environment at the Biassono site.

## A convenient solution including support

Initially, Rovagnati compared IBM, HP and Dell EMC solutions. The company chose Dell EMC because it offered significant maintenance savings and better scalability, as well as providing a turnkey solution that came with continuous support from both the Dell EMC team and DISC. In addition, Dell Financial Services (DFS) allowed Rovagnati to better manage its cash flow. Melesi comments: "We appreciated that Dell EMC and DISC carefully identified the weaknesses in our IT infrastructure before proposing a solution. DISC gave demos to show how the solution addressed our business needs and brought in DFS to optimise our budget."

## 4x faster storage and 50 percent more capacity

Rovagnati has boosted I/Os per second to increase application speed. "By installing the Dell EMC SC Series arrays, we've increased storage speed by four times and capacity by 50 percent. We've also improved reliability and added tools that allow us to recover and restore data quicker," says Melesi.

The arrays provide disaster recovery, ensuring continuity of service in the two sites. In addition, the network has been improved and Rovagnati has installed a Dell EMC PowerVault TL4000 unit for data backup.

## Double the processing speed for faster decision making

Rovagnati replaced its servers at Biassono supporting its ERP and other line-of-business applications with two Dell EMC PowerEdge R740 servers with VMware vSphere. The operating system was also migrated from Unix AIX to Linux to save maintenance licences and allow the

ERP system to better use the processing power of the servers' Intel® Xeon® ST Gold 6154 processors. Melesi says, "With the Dell EMC PowerEdge R740 servers, we have doubled our processing performance. It takes only a couple of hours to process the data and obtain reports on company key performance indicators, instead of almost one day, which has significantly accelerated our decision-making processes."

## Network upgrade: speed, availability and security

At the Biassono site, the network had grown in successive phases and network topology was not optimised, impeding the flow of data traffic. Rovagnati and DISC redesigned the network architecture, establishing a spine-and-leaf topology. Subnets and WANs have been re-defined in order to improve internal routing.

Rovagnati adopted Dell EMC Networking S4048 switches to connect the two data centres. The company then implemented Dell EMC Networking S4048T switches to aggregate servers, and Dell EMC Networking S3124F switches for wide area network (WAN) connections. Rovagnati also implemented a dynamic routing protocol on the devices of the external connectivity provider to autonomously manage geographical routing, gaining flexibility and speed. DISC introduced a new segmentation of the network devices in line with best practices for security. It also implemented centralised routing based on two core switches, which simplifies management and reduces the time to manage incidents. Scalability has been improved as a result of the project and the network is now highly reliable.

*"The new network delivers business continuity while supporting new applications by bringing the connections between the two data centres from 4 to 40 Gbps."*

Andrea Melesi, IT director at Rovagnati

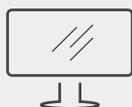
“Our goal was to be totally redundant, to manage any failure as much as possible automatically, without disruption to our systems,” says Melesi. “The new network delivers business continuity while supporting applications by increasing the connections between the two data centres from 4 to 40 gigabits per second (Gbps). The connections between the servers have gone from 1 to 10 Gbps,” says Melesi. The network directly connects the seven Italian offices and warehouses and about 20 branches in Italy and abroad. The network serves about 700 users.

## 25% less data centre admin required

With the renewal of its data centres, Rovagnati has reduced the time and costs of managing its IT infrastructure. Melesi comments, “We have cut the time for data centre management by 25 percent, so we can devote more resources to serving our internal customers and supporting business. By moving to Linux, we have also reduced the costs of server software licences by 20 percent.”

## Data recovered in half the time

With business continuity in place and the new tools, Rovagnati saves and restores disrupted data and systems faster than before. Tests have shown that recovery times have been halved, reducing the risk of interruptions to key processes. In addition, with ProSupport Plus Mission Critical to cover the hardware, Rovagnati can count on an on-site response within four hours of opening a support ticket.



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