



Case Study

A+S Improves Backup Protection and Reduces IT Workload with Object First

Introduction and Executive Summary

Headquartered in Willich, Germany, A+S Gesellschaft für Heizkostenmessung und Abrechnung mbH has delivered precise, reliable heating and operating cost billing services since 1976.

With 250 employees and an industry-leading error rate of under 1%, A+S serves a wide range of clients, from small homes to large housing projects. The company's success is built on financial stability, service excellence, and advanced information systems.

Seeking enhanced security and efficiency, A+S selected Object First's Ootbi (Out-of-the-Box Immutability) for its built-in immutability, seamless Veeam integration, and minimal admin overhead.

The Challenge

Before implementing Ootbi by Object First, A+S relied on an HPE ProLiant server running a hardened Linux environment as their primary Veeam backup repository.

To futureproof their backup strategy, A+S identified key requirements for a replacement.

- **Aging Infrastructure and Security Risks:** With their hardware reaching end of support, A+S needed a more advanced security model, including 4-eyes authentication for bucket deletions and node resets.
- **Balancing Cost, Security, and Simplicity:** Reinstalling a hardened Linux system on new hardware was an option, but A+S sought a cost-effective, easy-to-manage alternative that didn't compromise security.
- **Reducing IT Maintenance Overhead:** Managing a hardened OS required constant updates and oversight. A+S wanted a low-maintenance solution that ensured long-term security.

The Solution

Peter Breuer, IT Manager at A+S, explored multiple backup storage solutions, prioritizing a balance between management overhead and security.

During his evaluation, he considered two primary options: purchasing a new bare-metal HPE ProLiant server and using the Veeam Hardened Repository ISO or adopting Ootbi by Object First, which provides both hardware and software updates from a single source.



Keeping things secure is the most important part—but as this is the business model of Object First, I expect nothing less!

Peter Breuer

IT Manager at A+S Gesellschaft für Heizkostenmessung und Abrechnung mbH



Company:

A+S Gesellschaft für Heizkostenmessung und Abrechnung mbH

Industry:

Energy Management Services

Country:

Germany

Solution:

Ootbi by Object First

Results:

Stronger security and a more cost-effective, easy-to-manage backup solution than the Hardened Repository also in consideration



Ultimately, A+S decided that Ootbi's 8-eyes authentication, integrated support, and all-in-one approach offered stronger security and simplicity than a new Veeam Hardened Repository setup.

The deployment was smooth and efficient, with the setup process aligning exactly with expectations. While A+S encountered a minor performance issue related to Veeam's integration protocol, Object First's support team quickly identified and resolved the case, leaving A+S fully satisfied with the transition.

Breuer commented: *"Since we wanted to ensure that we do the best we can to be as secure as possible, Object First stood out. Knowing it was founded by key figures behind Veeam reinforced our confidence in its seamless integration."*

The Results

While A+S's previous solution had never technically failed, switching to Ootbi by Object First gave them immediate and lasting benefits:

- **Rapid Deployment:** With a setup time of just 30 minutes, A+S transitioned to Ootbi without disruption, ensuring continuous backup protection without operational delays.
- **Enhanced Protection:** Immutable backups added an extra layer of security, ensuring crucial data remains protected against unauthorized changes and ransomware threats.
- **Reduced IT Maintenance:** With Object First handling host OS updates, the IT team no longer has to monitor or maintain a hardened OS, allowing them to focus on strengthening overall security.

Conclusion

A+S's use of Object First's Ootbi solution led to impressive results, delivering the security, simplicity, and reliability they were looking for.

Breuer states: *"It just works. Unpacking, setting up, and starting to fill Ootbi with data takes half an hour. The manual for setting it up is really helpful, and you get things running fast—you see screenshots and guidance to the point where everything just works."*