

Burgas Municipality Advances NIS2 Compliance, Halves Recovery Times with Object First

Introduction and Executive Summary

Burgas Municipality is the local government authority for the city of Burgas, Bulgaria, and its surrounding region. Serving a population of more than 232,000, it employs over 430 people and processes more than 150,000 citizen requests a year.

Safeguarding citizen data is a core concern for the Municipality, especially in light of the growing risk of ransomware attacks and the demands of the EU's second Network and Information Security Directive (NIS2). With data volumes growing rapidly, the Municipality set out to modernise its ageing backup storage.

The promise of secure backup storage with Absolute Immutability, seamless Veeam integration, and simplified management and compliance ultimately led Burgas Municipality to work with Object First.

The Challenge

Before Object First, Burgas Municipality relied on a tape library as well as a dedicated internal storage partition. This setup created several issues:

- **Performance bottlenecks:** The tape library could not keep pace and quickly reached capacity, while repurposed disk storage was too slow and consumed space that degraded wider storage performance.
- **Insufficient data protection:** Neither approach delivered the level of immutability, security assurance, and operational resilience required to protect critical citizen data against modern cyber threats.
- **Rising compliance and ransomware pressure:** The Municipality needed stronger technical, operational, and organisational measures to manage cybersecurity risks to comply with NIS2 regulation and strengthen ransomware resilience.

The Municipality set its sights on a faster, more secure backup storage solution with immutability at its core.



Object First added a new level of security through Absolute Immutability—backups cannot be deleted, even by an administrator—and any attempt to do so triggers an immediate alert.”

Atanas Sirekov,
Information Services and
Technology Director, Burgas
Municipality



Solution:
Object First Ootbi

Industry:
Public Sector
(Local Government)

Country:
Bulgaria

Company:
Burgas Municipality

Results:
Recovery times cut ~50%,
backup storage with Absolute
Immutability, 2.4–2.8 GB/s
throughput, strengthened
NIS2 cyber-resilience, reduced
operational workload.

The Solution

Burgas Municipality plans its infrastructure in annual and three-year cycles, attempting to balance strict security and data-protection requirements against a defined budget. It was during this process that a trusted local supplier introduced the administration to Object First, highlighting Ootbi's Absolute Immutability and native compatibility with Veeam—as well as its ability to respond directly to the Municipality's NIS2 needs. Atanas Sirekov, Information Services and Technology Director explains:

“With NIS2 a key strategic priority, we quickly realised Object First could help us realise several of the risk-management measures set out in Article 21 of the directive—which calls for relevant organisations to implement appropriate technical, operational, and organisational measures to manage cybersecurity risks.”

Deployment proved smooth, with the Municipality working not just with their partner, but also with Object First directly to ensure preparations went off without a hitch.

The Results

By pairing Object First's on-premises backup storage appliance with Veeam, Burgas Municipality addressed all its key challenges:

- **Recovery times cut by 50%:** Full recovery of critical systems fell from roughly four hours to around two, with improved reliability.
- **Absolute Immutability:** Valuable citizen data is protected from ransomware, malicious breaches, and even accidental deletion by an administrator.
- **Rapid throughput:** 2.4–2.8 GB/s across two 10 Gigabit Ethernet interfaces allow backups to complete quickly, keeping public services running uninterrupted.
- **NIS2 compliance:** The use of absolutely immutable backup storage helps the Municipality to address several NIS2 Article 21 measures.
- **A lighter operational load:** Simple, fast operation frees up considerable time for staff who manage backups.

The Municipality believes it achieved another milestone with Object First, too: it may be the first local administration in Bulgaria to adopt immutable backup storage as part of a comprehensive cyber-resilience strategy.

Conclusion

For Burgas Municipality, securing valuable citizen data with Object First has an impact far beyond backup security. Sirekov explains: **“This success is ultimately a contributor towards sustainable city management: an approach that combines innovation, cybersecurity, and responsible governance to protect public services and citizen data.”**

The first few months of collaboration have also reinforced confidence in the partnership—and in Object First as a foundation for further digital transformation: **“These early results give us every reason to expect that Object First will keep refining its absolutely immutable storage solution, helping us improve our workflows. And it shows, in practice, that Burgas Municipality takes its citizens' data security seriously.**