

ENIDH Deploys Ransomware-Proof Backups in Just 15 Minutes

Introduction and Executive Summary

Escola Superior Náutica Infante D. Henrique (ENIDH) is a public higher education institution in Lisbon, Portugal, focused on maritime studies, transport, and logistics.

With two previous repository failures raising concerns about the operational complexity and reliability of its internally built backup repositories, ENIDH needed a solution that could deliver security, simplicity, and dependability for its 110 staff and 1,000 students—without placing additional burden on its small IT team.

ENIDH and its longstanding IT partner TMVM ultimately chose to work with Object First due to its ability to offer Absolute Immutability, seamless Veeam integration, and radically simplified management.

The Challenge

Before Object First, ENIDH managed its Veeam backups using internally built repositories based on refurbished hardware and hardened Linux systems. While functional in principle, this approach introduced a range of serious operational challenges:

- **Repeated repository failures:** ENIDH experienced two critical incidents over the space of three years, both of which caused the complete unavailability of its backup repositories and required full rebuilds on both occasions.
- **High operational complexity:** Managing hardened Linux repositories required specialised skills not always available within the small IT team, creating ongoing dependency on external expertise.
- **Lack of immutability:** The existing setup made it difficult to consistently guarantee that backup data could not be altered or deleted, leaving the institution exposed to ransomware and insider threats.

ENIDH needed a new backup storage solution that was not only more reliable, but also simpler to use—with Absolute Immutability at its core.



“Even if administrative credentials are compromised, our backups remain protected and unaltered.”

Pedro Morais
IT Director, ENIDH



Company:

Escola Superior Náutica Infante D. Henrique (ENIDH)

Industry:

Higher Education / Maritime Studies

Country:

Portugal

Partner:

TMVM

Solution:

Object First Ootbi

Results:

Absolute Immutability achieved, elimination of repository rebuild incidents, significantly reduced operational complexity, improved backup and recovery performance, increased IT team autonomy

The Solution

ENIDH worked closely with its long-standing IT partner TMVM to review its backup and recovery strategy and assess potential new solutions against a clear set of requirements: effective ransomware protection, operational simplicity, and seamless integration with the institution's existing Veeam-based infrastructure.

TMVM first introduced Object First's on-premises backup storage appliance, as the solution best positioned to address ENIDH's needs.

Pedro Morais, IT Director at ENIDH, explained what made Object First stand out:

"We were looking for immutability by design, native Veeam integration, and simplicity of deployment and operation—as well as a reduced dependency on specialised technical skills. Object First delivered on all counts."

TMVM played a central role in the deployment process, designing the appropriate architecture and overseeing implementation and integration. The deployment itself was fast and straightforward—taking just 15 minutes—with strong support offered throughout from Object First's vendor team.

The Results

By implementing Object First, ENIDH was able to address all its key storage challenges:

- **Absolute Immutability:** ensures backups are fully protected from alteration or deletion—even the most privileged admin or attacker with access to backup storage cannot modify or delete data.
- **Reduced operational complexity:** an integrated management interface and optimised Veeam configuration has eliminated configuration-related risks and lowered the barrier for routine monitoring and verification—freeing the IT team from maintaining Linux repositories manually.
- **Improved backup and recovery performance:** modern, purpose-built hardware delivers faster, more consistent backups, increasing confidence in recovery operations.
- **More time for strategic initiatives:** backup infrastructure management overhead reduced to "near zero".

Morais reflected on the overall transformation: **"We moved from a technically valid but difficult-to-maintain solution to one that is robust, simple, and reliable. The combination of operational simplicity and real security has been the most significant factor in making this effort a success."**

Álvaro Mendão, Partner at TMVM, offered his own reflections on the project: **"The goal for ENIDH was clear: protect backup data against ransomware while reducing the operational burden on a small IT team. Object First allowed us to deploy immutable backup storage with native Veeam integration, removing the complexity traditionally associated with hardened backup repositories."**

Conclusion

By combining the right technology with the right partner, ENIDH has transformed its backup storage environment from a significant source of operational risk into a robust, low-maintenance foundation for data resilience.

Morais summarises: **"Today we have confidence that, even with administrative access, backups cannot be deleted or modified. The risk associated with human error or insider threats has been significantly reduced, and protection against ransomware is now effective—not just theoretical."**