



About Canadian Blood Services

At any given moment, half of all Canadians will need blood or know someone who does. Fortunately, Canadian Blood Services in Ottawa is committed to providing a steady and safe supply of blood, plasma, stem cells, and organs and tissues to millions of Canadians. With the support of 240 IT professionals, and more than 3,800 employees and 17,000 volunteers, the biological manufacturer excels in the business of saving lives.

Because of Canadian Blood Services' steadfast commitment to quality and safety, Canada's blood and plasma supply is recognized as one of the safest in the world. The Canadian blood management system and supporting applications cover the entire journey of each unit of blood from donor to recipient, and ensures the quality of blood, plasma, stem cells, and organs and tissues, as well as the protection of patient and donor information.

Quality and safety are paramount in everything we do, because lives depend on it. IT provides critical services that enable the organization to improve patient outcomes, enhance health system performance, and optimize cost efficiency across the entire organization, work that impacts people's lives on a daily basis.

David Grant
Canadian Blood Services, Program Manager

Zerto Bridges IT Transformation for New Canadian Blood Services Datacenter

Challenges

- Improve the resiliency of its critical IT services by migrating from two datacenters onsite to two new co-location datacenters with minimal disruption to services.
- Migrate more than 1,400 workloads, including almost 700 based on VMware virtual infrastructure.
- Applications and data have to run in both new locations, with each site acting as a backup in an emergency.
- Replace an outdated, cold disaster recovery (DR) site model that could take up to six days to fully restore IT services after DR event.

Solution

- Create a new IT resiliency model with Zerto as a key tool to ensure the availability of existing IT services and protect new services as they are introduced.
- Migrate applications and workloads to the new datacenters with Zerto multi-site replication services.
- Protect critical data and applications running in each of the new datacenters so that each can act as a recovery site for the other in the event of an emergency.

Zerto Results



Business-critical applications can now be recovered quickly and easily between datacenters within a time frame more suited to a digital enterprise.



A painless data center migration of Canadian Blood Services VMware workloads was achieved with complete automation and orchestration using the same Zerto replication platform.



RPOs were significantly reduced while RTO times for critical IT services decreased from six days to four hours to recover from a site loss.

Pain-Free Datacenter Migration and Rapid Recovery with Zerto

While most IT professionals see IT resiliency as a means to support profits and market growth, Canadian Blood Services knows it's much more. For them, IT resiliency is critical to providing a constant supply of blood, plasma, organs, tissues and stem cells to millions of Canadians.

Canadian Blood Services, and the critical IT systems they use, help ensure the safety and security of every drop of blood from the time it's collected to the point of transfusion, as well as the quality of plasma, stem cells, and organs and tissues needed by patients all over Canada.

Downtime is never an option, which is why they initiated a new IT resiliency plan to replace the existing datacenters and aging DR model.

The new resiliency model required a migration from two datacenters in Ottawa to two new co-location datacenter sites in Toronto and Calgary. All of Canadian Blood Services' critical applications, consisting of over 1,400 workloads, had to be moved, including more than 700 that were based on VMware. Also, they wanted to update an aging DR solution based on a cold DR site model that could take up to six days to recover all critical IT services.

To accentuate the need for a new IT resiliency model, during the migration, Ottawa experienced a tornado event that could easily have struck nearer to the Canadian Blood Services sites and created an outage.

"We really had to do better than six days to recover," said Grant. "Our existing data centers were within 4 kms of each other, which made our operations extremely vulnerable to weather events and other potential regional outages. As part of our move to the new data centers, we had to make sure that if we lost one, we would have sufficient capacity in the other to bring up all of our critical IT services in the remaining site."

For more than five years, Canadian Blood Services had been protecting all its VMware-based applications with Zerto. So when the organization heard Zerto had a multi-site replication tool, it conducted a POC and started its datacenter migration journey without hesitation.

"We had always trusted Zerto with our critical VMware apps and workloads, so its one-to-many replication really cinched the deal with us," Grant said. "With this feature, we can simultaneously replicate our VMs to both new sites, enabling us to test our workloads in both locations before migrating them to their designated home datacenter for operational use."

After more than two dozen successful and painless migration events using the Zerto replication services, Canadian Blood Services is running their critical IT services from their new datacenters. Zerto is a key part of their new resiliency model to protect critical VMware workloads running in each site. The new resiliency model has improved RPO times, while decreasing RTO from six days to four hours.

"Going with Zerto to lead our migration and improve our IT resilience was an obvious and easy decision," Grant said. "Zerto is our tool of choice for protecting our critical VMware workloads. It was no surprise that this was going to be the simplest and the safest way to complete our datacenter migration and help us deliver on the promise of IT service resiliency for Canadian Blood Services."

About Zerto

Zerto, a Hewlett Packard Enterprise company, empowers customers to run an always-on business by simplifying the protection, recovery, and mobility of on-premises and cloud applications. Zerto's cloud data management and protection solution eliminates the risks and complexity of modernization and cloud adoption across private, public, and hybrid deployments. The simple, software-only solution uses continuous data protection at scale to converge disaster recovery, backup, and data mobility. Zerto is trusted by over 9,500 customers globally and is powering offerings for Microsoft Azure, IBM Cloud, AWS, Google Cloud, Oracle Cloud, and more than 350 managed service providers. www.zerto.com

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