

Williams Racing Reduces Backup from Days to Minutes with **Acronis**

Grand Prix winners lead the data security pack with comprehensive cyber protection software

BACKGROUND

As one of the world's leading Formula 1 teams, Williams Racing has been winning grands prix for more than three decades. Team patron Frank Williams founded Frank Williams Racing Cars in 1966 and entered F1 in 1969. Since then, Williams has won 16 FIA Formula One World Championship titles, becoming the third most successful team on the grid. To stay at the front of the pack, one of the team's top priorities is their IT infrastructure and communication.

KEEPING PACE WITH GROWING DATA

Williams understands that Formula 1 is a data-driven sport where the ability to quickly and reliably access data is crucial to success. In fact, the team spends an enormous amount of time and resources analyzing their previously collected data to improve their cars and gain an edge on the competition. At the same time, they need to keep this data securely stored, protected from cyberattacks, and archived in accordance with the strict requirements of the FIA (Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile).

Historically, Williams used the NDMP (Network Data Management Protocol) and stored data on tapes. While this maintained data security, it presented two challenges:

- tape storage made meeting recovery time objectives (RTOs) frustrating
- the amount of data being stored grew rapidly, draining system resources and requiring constant attention from the administrator

INDUSTRY

Motorsport

KEY CHALLENGES

- Rapidly growing volumes of data
- Strict FIA data protection regulations
- Data protection required constant sysadmin attention
- Inefficient data protection process

KEY REQUIREMENTS

- Complete on-premises and cloud workload protection
- Reduced need for IT monitoring

PROTECTED RESOURCES

- 200 general purpose, file, and SQL physical and virtual servers
- 650 engineering workstations
- 1,000+ Microsoft Office 365 mailboxes
- 100s of TB of data, with more PB to come

KEY BENEFITS

- Backup window reduced from days to minutes
- Easy, intuitive tool allows for time and staff savings
- Extra protection with AI-based ransomware defense

As a result of these challenges, backups took much longer to complete, to the point where new backups would fail to start because previous ones were still running.

CLOUD WORKLOADS

To help expedite backups, Williams' CIO, Graeme Hackland, transitioned the team to cloud-based services. Unfortunately, their existing on-premises backup system was not able to support cloud workloads. "We needed a data protection partner to help us be more aggressive with our cloud and make sure we always have a spare copy of all our data," Hackland said.

The solution was a strategic technology partnership with Acronis. Acronis provides cyber protection for Williams' factory, trackside infrastructure, and business applications. Additionally, during deployment, Acronis provided implementation, consulting, and premier support services — allowing Williams to focus their IT efforts on the races ahead.

"Data is king in our business and it's great to know that with Acronis, it's fully protected. Acronis' technology is fast and intuitive, and it helped Williams to optimize our IT resources."

Graeme Hackland,
CIO

REDUCING BACKUP WINDOW FROM DAYS TO MINUTES

With Acronis Backup deployed, Williams' reduced their backup window and recovery time from days to minutes through secure backups to their own data center and the Acronis Cloud. This allows the team to access and restore any file from any point of time through an easy-to-use interface.

Routine backup tasks were transitioned to the help desk, significantly reducing resource demand while optimizing data management. As a result, Williams was able to begin eliminating tape storage, keeping their data safe and accessible in the cloud – the first step toward protecting hundreds of terabytes of data on their hundreds of servers, workstations, and Office 365 mailboxes.

EASY DATA MANAGEMENT

Acronis ensures that Williams' data is safe and protected. Their massive stores of data are secure at a Williams' data center and can be replicated and migrated to an off-site data center or the Acronis Cloud for further protection.

ADDED SECURITY

Acronis encrypts all data end-to-end, and only Williams holds the encryption key. For additional security, Acronis Active Protection automatically detects, terminates, and recovers from ransomware attacks, one of the world's most destructive malware strains.

"The great benefit of Acronis is securing the data, our intellectual property. Data is king in our business and it's great to know that, with Acronis, it's fully protected. Acronis' technology is fast and intuitive, and it helped Williams to optimize our IT resources," concluded Hackland.

ABOUT ACRONIS

Acronis sets the standard for [cyber protection](#) and [hybrid cloud storage](#) through its innovative [backup](#), [anti-ransomware](#), [disaster recovery](#), [storage](#), and [enterprise file sync and share solutions](#). Enhanced by [AI-based Active Protection technology](#), [blockchain-based authentication](#) and a unique [hybrid-cloud architecture](#), Acronis protects all data in any environment, including physical, virtual, cloud, mobile workloads and applications.

[Founded in Singapore in 2003](#), today the company is trusted by more than 5 million consumers and 500,000 businesses worldwide, including [79 of the top 100 most valuable brands](#).