

## News UK deploys Zadara Storage architecture as Equinix managed service to enable data protection, simplify infrastructure and reduce costs



“Zadara Storage has simplified our overall architecture and provided a scalable, elastic infrastructure to support our current and future needs. Additionally, we have been able to reduce our overall costs by more than 30%.”

Iain Caldwell, Head of Infrastructure, News UK and News Corp EMEA

### Customer Profile:

News UK is home to some of the biggest and most popular British newspapers. *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* are the world's best-known quality newspapers, and *The Sun* remains the most read British print newspaper.

### Challenge:

- Aging backup architecture could not keep up with growing data demands
- Required a scalable, elastic solution to support unpredictable needs
- Eliminate CapEx and move to an OpEx-based, as-a-service model

### Solution:

- Zadara Storage VPSA® Storage Array

### Results:

- New architecture provides complete data replication for 1PB of storage and scales for future growth
- Overall cost savings of over 30%
- Dramatic simplification of process eliminating potential points of failure
- Frees up human resources to focus on more valuable tasks, rather than mundane administrative functions
- Completes first stage of larger Data Consolidation Project

## News UK updates aging data infrastructure with Zadara Storage Storage-as-a-Service (STaaS)

News UK and Ireland Ltd is home to some of the biggest and most popular British newspapers, owned by global media company News Corp. News UK publishes *The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Sun*, *The Sun on Sunday* and *The TLS* newspapers.

Iain Caldwell, the Head of Infrastructure, for News UK and News Corp EMEA was facing a serious challenge with their prior infrastructure. Protecting the company data was critical. However, the company's backup processes were regularly failing. There was a limited backup window and if the process “stalled” or did not complete in time, the backup application needed to be canceled, leaving data exposed, and the only option was to retry the next day.

“We were backing up to legacy tape using libraries that were as big as a bus”, explains Iain Caldwell. “The system was antiquated and outdated, and the failure rates on the process were unacceptably high.”

The company needed a new scalable infrastructure for protecting their data that would not only solve their current challenges, but would be able to support their growth moving forward. In addition, News UK wanted to deploy a solution that did not require huge upfront capital expenditures (CapEx), but rather provided for an as-a-service OpEx model where they only paid for what they used.



*“Our prior technology was outdated, not scalable, cumbersome, difficult to maintain and expensive.”*

*“Our new Zadara Storage implementation addresses all of our prior challenges while saving us a considerable amount of money, but also provides a scalable architecture that grows with us. The solution aligns with our needs, not the other way around.”*

**Iain Caldwell,**  
Head of Infrastructure,  
News UK and News Corp  
EMEA

To solve the IT challenge, News UK put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) and asked for leading vendors to reply with possible solutions. “We wanted to do a comprehensive review of the industry offerings, and not be influenced by prior experience, or companies we were familiar with,” said Iain Caldwell.

After reviewing the options, News UK selected Zadara Storage and Equinix as their business partners to protect 1PB of critical data. “This is the beginning of a much larger Data Consolidation Project, so it was important that we found the right partner. Zadara Storage was the one vendor that aligned with our business, not the other way around.”

News UK is now leveraging Zadara Storage in two Equinix data centers in London for ongoing data replication, and a third location in Manchester for longer-term archive storage. “The process is now simple, clean and has removed a lot of unnecessary complexity,” said Caldwell. With the new architecture, the data replication process occurs in a single process rather than multiple fragmented processes that were difficult to manage and guarantee integrity.

In line with the larger News UK Data Consolidation Project, the Zadara Storage solution eliminated a significant amount of hardware, freeing up data center real estate, eliminating power and cooling requirements and reducing overall costs. Additionally, by eliminating older hardware, News UK was able to terminate a number of now

unnecessary hardware maintenance contracts. The result of these activities was a dramatic reduction in overall costs.

Using the new simplified process frees up the News UK IT staff to focus on strategic activities rather than the administrative function of implementing, monitoring and troubleshooting the data backup processes. Redeploying these resources has a very positive impact on overall productivity.

As Iain Caldwell described, “Zadara Storage provided a solution that aligned with our needs. We were able to dramatically simplify our process, guarantee replication integrity, free up significant resources and reduce our costs by over 30%.”

Looking forward, News UK has a variety of projects where they are considering using Zadara Storage. “The Zadara approach to enterprise storage-as-a-service aligns well with our goal of eliminating unnecessary capital expenditures and only paying for the services we use,” said Iain Caldwell. “We are very keen to understand Zadara’s future road map to see where they can help us further upgrade our infrastructure and reduce overall costs.

News UK is an excellent example of a forward-thinking media company, who have replaced outdated architecture and processes to leverage the benefits of storage-as-a-service and increase efficiencies and productivity, all while reducing overall costs and complexity.

## Zadara Storage

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