

# Nationwide Building Society



## Nationwide Deploys SQL Server 2005 on EMC Storage Infrastructure

### SOLUTION SNAPSHOT

- EMC CLARiiON CX700
- EMC PowerPath
- EMC Replication Manager
- EMC SnapView

### BUSINESS VALUE HIGHLIGHTS

**Profile:** Nationwide is the world's largest Building Society and the U.K.'s seventh largest financial organisation. It is the U.K.'s fourth largest mortgage lender and second largest High Street savings provider. It has 11 million members and assets of £117.7 billion. For further information visit [www.nationwide.co.uk](http://www.nationwide.co.uk)

**Challenge:** As a European banking operation, Nationwide is obliged to comply with The Basel II Accord, which comes into force as an EU directive from 1st January 2007. The extensive regulatory framework is designed to improve the stability of financial services by bringing capital adequacy assessment more closely in line with risk management. It requires a comprehensive review of data and business processes to assess risk, intervene and enhance overall market discipline. For Nationwide it is a fundamental change in how it organises its operation and accesses its information. It is therefore imperative that the right systems are in place not only to comply, but also to improve internal efficiency.

**Business Value:** EMC hardware, software, and services optimised Nationwide's SQL Server 2005 deployment and delivered the following benefits to Nationwide:

- Meet availability and resilience requirements
- Reliable backup and recovery process for very large databases
- Flexibility for growth and expansion
- Lower total cost of ownership
- Reliable consultancy, support and maintenance service

## The Business Issues

Following the implementation of The Basel II Accord in Europe, banks will become responsible for managing their risk profile more accurately. Storing and archiving customer information – both to meet business requirements and comply with Basel II obligations – is a major challenge for Nationwide.

Arthur Amos, Head of Technology Infrastructure, Nationwide Building Society, said, “One of the Basel II requirements is to maintain all transactional data that could affect our risk status. In order to meet this requirement we required a solution that could safely store up to seven years worth of data and allow easy retrieval of this information.”

The company’s predicted monthly storage consumption will be 120 GB for the relational database elements. The two key databases are predicted to reach 7TB and 2.5TB in size after seven years. Storage for the cube and modeling requirements will add further to this. Easy organisation, retention and retrieval of this data is necessary for compliance with Basel II. In addition, a considerable proportion of its data was determined to have a varying value, and storage of this data needed to be tiered according to that value.



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To minimise failure recovery times, ensure efficient performance and availability and cope with substantial increases in data storage requirements, Nationwide recognised that a new approach to its information management was required.

Nationwide made the decision to deploy Microsoft SQL Server 2005 to create a data warehouse and use the table partitioning feature to partition historical and current data. It required a scalable, secure storage system to support the databases, to ensure compliance with The Basel II Accord and store seven years of customer data.

“We were experiencing a phenomenal growth in information across almost every area of our business – insurance, mortgage and retail banking service - and we needed extra capacity to cover the pipeline of current and future project work, as well as support our move to consolidate all information,” said Amos.

## The Solution

To support the implementation of its Microsoft SQL Server 2005 and house masses of data in a single system, Nationwide took the decision to deploy EMC CLARiiON CX700s.

Designed for environments requiring high capacity and maximum application performance, the CX700 is a perfect fit for Nationwide’s needs. Using the different levels of storage tiering within the CX700 storage array has enabled Nationwide to attribute different values to the data and partition the information according to its importance.

Nationwide's backups are being handled by EMC SnapView to reduce scheduled downtime, improve data recover and application consistency and minimise recovery times by creating frequent point-in-time images.

EMC Consulting Services was also involved in providing a vital role. It was instrumental in designing a storage infrastructure suited to Nationwide's compliance needs," said Amos.

### Business Benefits

This next-generation, cost-effective, powerful, and scalable storage solution has transformed Nationwide's technology infrastructure. The CLARiiON based architecture allows the Building Society to match database backup service levels and cost to the value of information, protect and store information cost-effectively, and optimise storage provisioning.



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"The EMC technology has enabled us to build a storage solution which is flexible enough to accommodate our expected data growth and designed to meet our Basel II compliance needs. By making critical information productive across its entire lifecycle, managing information based on its changing value and ultimately protecting more information more affordably through tiering within our CLARiiON architecture, Nationwide is well positioned to be Basel II compliant" commented Amos.

"Our implementation of EMC SnapView and EMC Replication Manager means that we are able to restore the data warehouse in a matter of minutes, and perform off-host backups to our tape infrastructure. In addition to the deployed EMC technology, EMC Consulting provided an invaluable strategic role in helping us to develop a storage design, fit for the purpose of complying with Basel II. Engaging with EMC Consulting to optimise the storage design was key to the success of this project," continued Amos.

"Our EMC infrastructure provides a fundamental support role for our mission-critical SQL databases. Combining EMC's understanding of our business and its market-leading solutions gave us the reliability, performance and availability and recoverability we required from our storage solution. We have solved our data management challenges and can now be certain of complying fully with legal and regulatory requirements. We anticipate future downstream benefits such as reduced storage costs and easier ongoing administration," concluded Amos.



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