

# Armada Music

## Case Study

### Nexenta Provides Fast and Effective Disaster Recovery (DR) for Critical Applications

Amsterdam, Netherlands  
[www.armadamusic.com](http://www.armadamusic.com)  
Media and Entertainment



#### Summary

**Challenge:** Create a stable, high performance storage solution to replace an ad hoc system, support future growth, and protect valuable assets

**Solution:** NexentaStor High Availability (HA) Cluster

**Platform:** HP, DataOn, Seagate, HGST

**Use Case:** High performance and disaster recovery

**Benefits:**

- Cost-effective data security with multi-data center failover
- Support for rapid growth
- Freedom from vendor lock-in

#### Business Overview

Founded in 2003, Amsterdam-based Armada Music has released a host of quality electronic dance music titles over the course of its history. The Armada Music umbrella includes more than 25 sub-labels and the company also hosts its own worldwide events, Armada Nights, in places like Buenos Aires, London, Rome, New York, Jakarta, and Mexico City.

The company's founders include world renowned DJ and trance music producer Armin van Buuren who has been at the top of the fans' poll in DJ Magazine five times and who headlined a concert celebrating the crowning of King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands.

#### Challenges

Although Armada Music carries a significant number of music tracks and HD videos on its network that are needed regularly by its employees, it had never formally planned a storage solution to support its activities. Instead, it had relied on an ad hoc arrangement based on HP Proliant servers with direct attached storage. When some of the HP machines were coming to end of life, the company decided it needed to look for a proper storage solution to handle its media, that would also be able to meet its future growth requirements.

"We needed a proper storage solution to underpin our growth," explains Stefan van den Hurk, IT manager at Armada, "because our data was growing at around 25TB a year."

*"We needed a proper storage solution to support our growth because our data was growing at around 25TB a year. If we lose our data, it would be a disaster. At the end of the process, it was pretty obvious that for the features I was looking for and compared to the price, Nexenta was the best competitor."*

Stefan van den Hurk

IT Manager  
Armada Music

Armada had a local server room with two server racks at its head office and a second data center to host its archive which, van den Hurk describes as a “data storage spill over.” An additional data center in Haarlem hosted several of the company’s websites and back-up servers.

Given its reliance on providing music and video files over the network to its employees, Armada also needed to ensure it had a disaster recovery infrastructure in place. As van den Hurk freely admits: “If we lose our data, it would be a disaster for this company.”

As an existing HP customer, Armada looked to HP for a possible solution but the company’s IT partner 2SOURCE4 suggested it might want to consider Nexenta Software-Defined Storage as well. “At the end of the process, it was pretty obvious that for the features I was looking for, Nexenta was the best competitor... and it won on price, too,” van den Hurk says.

## System Configuration

### Primary Site:

- 336TB Capacity
- NexentaStor HA Cluster
- Two HP DL380 G8
- 256GB System Memory
- DataOnDNS 1600D
- 112x 3TB Seagate Constellation SAS
- STEC ZeusIOP
- STEC ZeusRAM

### Disaster Recovery Site:

- 264TB Capacity
- NexentaStor
- HP DL380 G8
- 256GB System Memory
- DataOnDNS 1600D
- 88x 3TB Seagate Constellation SAS

## Solution and Benefits

### Solution

Armada, with help from 2SOURCE4, opted to deploy a cluster solution with NexentaStor High Availability (HA) Cluster at its head office, with two appliances connected over a 10GB backbone with 336TB of storage on two 60-bay JBODs. For disaster recovery purposes, it installed another NexentaStor appliance with 264TB of storage on six 24-bay JBODs at its second data center. The next stage is to connect the office to the disaster recovery data center with 10GB fiber.

Van den Hurk describes the migration and implementation process as straightforward. He says it is much easier to add capacity with the Nexenta solution and performance has improved significantly. “We could last another five years before we need to add another JBOD. Speed, capacity, management, and usability are all better than we had before.”

### Benefits

Installing a stable, high performance storage solution was the primary motivation for Armada’s Nexenta implementation. However, as Armada got further into the project, it became apparent that NexentaStor’s extensive feature list was opening up many other possibilities.

The HA license feature makes a NexentaStor implementation highly available, and disaster recovery can be automatic or manual. A user-friendly graphical user interface (GUI) makes it easier for non-IT personnel to activate recovery.

NexentaStor’s open-source technology roots mean that users like Armada Music are not locked in to buying more expensive products from a particular vendor or paying unnecessary mark-ups for standard features. In addition, because it is based on ZFS, NexentaStor offers massively scalable storage environments with a virtually unlimited number of snapshots, free versioning, and high granularity of data protection.



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