



MAINFRAME VIRTUAL TAPE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SELECTS ZVT 5000-FLEX

Customer Demography: As a local city government organization and seasoned IBM z Systems Mainframe customer, this organization required a robust and cost-efficient virtual tape solution to safeguard their data and deliver the necessary long-term strategic value for their customers, the tax payers.

Customer Environment: The customer's environment included a z114 Server and the z/OS 2.1 Operating System. The backup and recovery strategy was based upon 3590 physical tape drives, utilizing FDR/ABR software.

Project Requirements: This local government customer had a well-structured project plan with clearly defined requirements:

- Minimum of 2 FICON channel access per appliance
- Must be able to utilize existing Fibre Channel disk array capacity
- Must support existing FC SAN replication function
- Must be easy to install, configure and use
- Must be interoperable and compatible with the z Systems software and hardware environment
- Must support full 3590 device emulation
- Must use non-proprietary AWSTAPE file format
- Must offer long-term cost efficiency (TCO)
- Around the clock, customer focused support
- Must provide flexibility for attachment to any customer owned FC or NFS storage

Customer Experience – Configuration Selection: Initially the customer utilized the Internet to identify viable z Systems VTL solutions. From a supplier selection viewpoint, the Optica web site was well structured in providing the requisite information to shortlist the **Optica zVT 5000-FLEX** solution for evaluation. When the customer contacted Optica, their pre-sales personnel were well versed in translating customer requirements into a solution design. Optica addressed all questions and demonstrated their expertise during the sales phase, inspiring confidence in their customer focussed support capabilities. In the end, the zVT 5000-FLEX solution matched all specified customer requirements, especially from a flexibility and price point perspective, compared to other VTL solutions.

About Optica: Optica Technologies is a privately held technology company, HQ in Louisville, Colorado, providing high-quality data center infrastructure solutions since 1967. Optica has been an IBM strategic partner since 2002, receiving the most extensive IBM qualification available for 3rd party solutions.

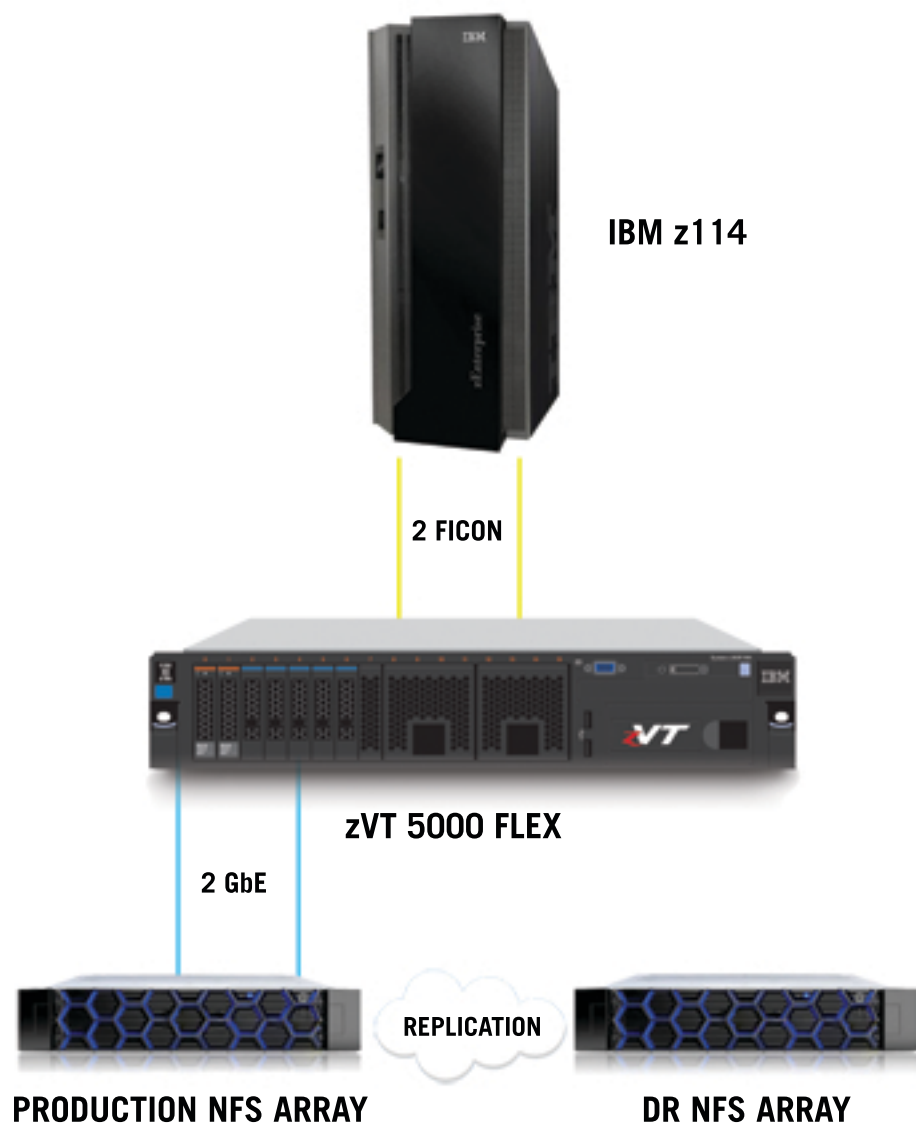
Optica zVT Introduction: Optica's zVT family of virtual tape products is designed to serve the needs of the most demanding global IBM z Systems Mainframe data centers. zVT solutions provide transparent support for all z Systems operating systems and tape management software, and are easy to install, implement and manage. All zVT products are built on a reliable 3rd generation hardware platform, and include Optica's world-class service and support with a satisfaction guarantee. The zVT family is available in three models to serve a wide variety of customer requirements:

zVT 3000i: An affordable "virtual tape in a box" solution. The **zVT 3000i** incorporates 2 FICON interfaces and supports up to 16 Virtual Tape Drives. An internal native data capacity of 4 TB RAID-5 storage is incorporated within a single 2U appliance.

zVT 5000-iNAS: Integrates the zVT VTL and NFS storage capacity via two 1-GbE or 10-GbE ports within a single 2U frame. The **zVT 5000-iNAS** incorporates 2 FICON interfaces supporting 16 to 256 Virtual Tape Drives. NFS storage capacity from 8 TB to 1 PB is provided in a single frame, with support for compression, encryption, replication and deduplication functions. For additional scalability and resiliency, zVT 5000-iNAS provides multi-node support.

zVT 5000-FLEX: Enables customers to leverage their existing investments in NFS or Fibre Channel (FC) disk array for virtual tape volumes storage. The **zVT 5000-FLEX** incorporates 2 FICON interfaces and supports 16 to 256 Virtual Tape Drives. The zVT 5000-FLEX can be configured with two 1-GbE or 10-GbE ports or two 8-Gbps Fibre Channel ports, supporting compression, encryption, replication and deduplication functions resident within the storage node. For additional scalability and resiliency, zVT 5000-FLEX provides multi-node support.

Target zVT Configuration: The customer had a two stage disk array implementation process. The first phase included FC connectivity from the zVT to Dell Compellent storage; with the second phase transitioning to the Dell EMC Unity NFS array. The Optica zVT 5000-FLEX seamlessly supported the transition from FC to NFS storage.



Customer Benefits: The Optica zVT 5000-FLEX VTL solution delivered the following customer benefits:

- Decreased DR RTO metric by 6-8 hours
- Reduced overnight backup processing by 1.5 hours
- Electronic DR replication processes
- Increased 3590 virtual drive availability
- Integration of z Systems DR processes with customer's preferred disk storage array
- Simplified management
- Short-term ROI and long-term TCO cost savings
- State-of-the-art fully supported solution

Customer Implementation Experience: The Optica Technical Services team provided a combination of on-site and remote implementation support:

- The implementation project was efficiently separated into prerequisite tasks (I.E. IODF, Networking Requirements) and zVT configuration activities. The zVT 5000-FLEX solution was fully operational and usable within 1 day.
- Optica provided On-Site training for all associated customer support personnel.
- A pilot tape migration approach was deployed, verifying zVT functionality with a subset of overnight batch jobs.
- A passive tape migration approach ensued, where ~85% of tape files were GDG controlled backups, allocated to the new zVT VTL, allowing older tape files to cycle out into scratch status.
- Several customer specific issues were discovered during the implementation phase, including one related to scratch tape processing and one related to SAN filesystem migration. All issues were resolved in a timely manner, with the Optica Technical Services team working throughout the night, as and when required.

Customer Post Implementation Experience: The customer has been reassured with their choice of the Optica zVT 5000-FLEX solution, as the Optica Technical Services team continues to provide proactive and timely support, as required. In particular, the zVT management interface is easy to learn, use and navigate.

Customer Comments: "The zVT 5000-FLEX was the best solution for us due to the flexibility of backend storage, ease of installation, reduced batch run times and ease of virtual tape library migration. We cannot say enough good things about Optica support. From answering questions, doing what-if planning and providing problem resolution, they have been awesome. With Optica we feel like we have a partner in this solution and not just another vendor in our Data Center."

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