**VLS**

# SAVING A FINANCIAL SERVICES BUSINESS MONEY AND RESOURCE WHILE IMPROVING PERFORMANCE REPLICATING INTO MICROSOFT AZURE WITH ASR

## About VLS

Virtual Lease Services (VLS) is a portfolio and risk management servicing partner for UK business and consumer finance providers. It provides key services to leading banks and financial institutions across the UK.

VLS has facilitated nearly 1,000,000 contracts and collect around £30m each month, with close to £1b of receivables under management.

**Databarracks**

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## The Challenge

Harvey Gill is IT Service Manager at VLS.

"Our Disaster Recovery solution was using legacy replication technology with Recovery Point Objectives (RPOs) of 24 hours. This was too slow, given the nature of our clients' data.

"We're regulated by the FCA, so we understand the regulatory and operational risks of clients' business environments.

"The consequences of any downtime affect both VLS and our customers. We deal with around 30 million payments a month, so having constantly available data is a must. Plus, any downtime will severely impact our FCA and PRA regulated clients."

# "Databarracks has been the ideal partner for this project...We needed a partner that could deliver the resilience solution we need right now, but also prepare us for future migration."

## The Solution

Databarracks managed the installation of Azure Site Recovery (ASR) on VLS' production infrastructure and the replication of data into Microsoft Azure, consisting of its key Hyper-V VMs (including Oracle 10 and 11 servers).

Azure provides highly available and scalable, low-cost storage. VLS can spin-up Disaster Recovery servers, and only pay when they are needed.

"In our Disaster Recovery environment, we have two permanent, always-on servers. One is a NetScaler server - this is powered off until needed for DR, which saves bandwidth and doesn't use up unnecessary resource. Similarly, an RDP server is powered off until needed for external access in addition to a firewall and load balancer.

"Replication is continuous with RPOs at 5 minutes, and retention of 24 hours. ASR also takes an app-consistent snapshot every 4 hours. Overall this totals around 10TB of data.

"We can access our DR recovery metrics in Azure, but Databarracks also provide regular service delivery reviews and full reporting as part of the managed service.
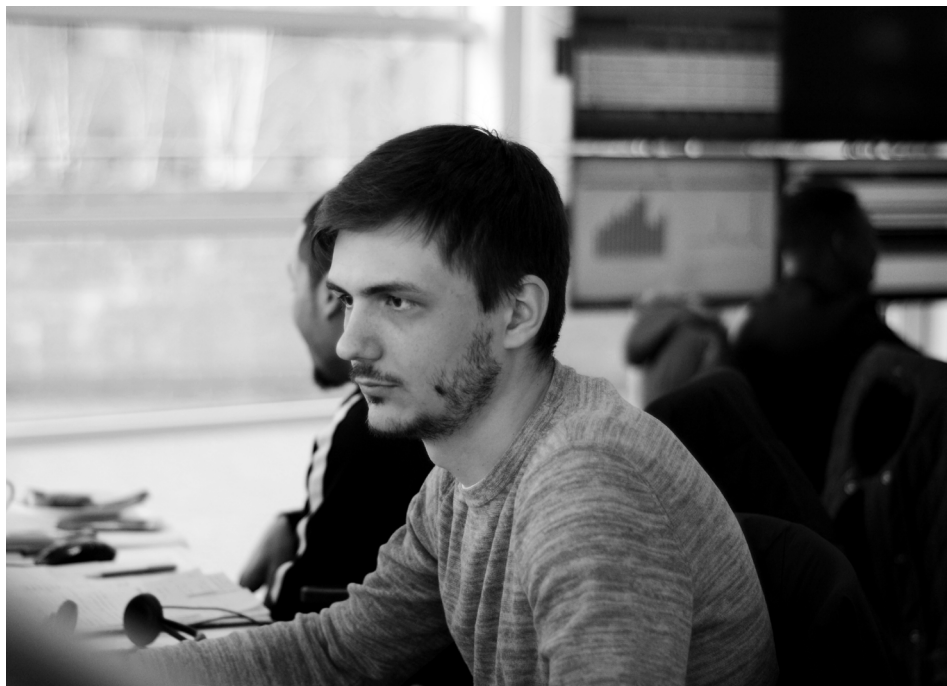
## The Benefits

"ASR to Azure has given confidence to our partners that clients' data is secure and highly available. Our RPOs are now down to 15 minutes.

"Moving to Azure is a strategic objective for us. We don't want to have to manage any IT infrastructure. Setting up DRaaS was the perfect first step for us to test the platform and gain experience without the risk of affecting our production systems and we've learned a lot.

"We now get better performance in Azure for Oracle. When tested against the old solution, the new performance is far better with Oracle sitting in Azure. This was a pleasant surprise for all involved and a good indicator for the future."

Databarracks and VLS are currently working on a roadmap to fully migrate to Azure by 2020 to reduce cost and improve reliability of its IT infrastructure.

"Databarracks has been the ideal partner for this project. The team made the installation process smooth and didn't sign off until it was working perfectly. We needed a partner that could deliver the resilience solution we need right now, but also prepare us for future migration."

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## About Databarracks

Databarracks is the UK's specialist business continuity and IT disaster recovery provider.

In 2003, we launched one of the world's first true managed backup services to bring indestructible resilience to mission critical data.

Today, we deliver award winning data and continuity services from some of the most secure data centres in the world, 30 metres below ground in ex-military nuclear bunkers, supported 24/7/365 by our team of handpicked experts.

We make enterprise-class continuity, security and resilience accessible for organisations of all sizes.

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