

CASE STUDY: Autoliv

Automotive Safety Manufacturer Now Has Essential HA "Airbag" for its System i5



Mark Christensen, his IT team and the management of Autoliv know firsthand the value of reliable System i5 high availability software. Autoliv relies on its J.D. Edwards World and One World ERP applications for financial, inventory, customer service, and purchasing functions for 13 manufacturing facilities worldwide. These applications run on a System i5 server with an eight-way processor that holds nearly a terabyte of data while processing as many as 70 million daily transactions.

Stringent on-time requirements

Autoliv is required to meet stringent on-time-delivery requirements with the automakers to which it supplies safety equipment (and Autoliv sells to virtually every automaker in the world). When these on-time delivery requirements aren't met, Autoliv can incur measurable revenue losses. In fact, many suppliers are evaluated on a regular basis for timeliness of deliveries and quality of product with some contracts specifying a supplier can be fined for each shipment that is delivered late. That's why every effort is made at Autoliv to reduce both planned and unplanned downtime.

Says Mark Christensen, the Autoliv system administration supervisor, "It's essential our HA solution will role swap smoothly and data is complete on the backup when we need it most."

Seeking the best HA

When Autoliv ERP team began looking for a superior yet cost-effective HA product, it came across iTera HA software. As they looked more closely and talked to several iTera HA customers, they found that latency—even at high transaction levels—was rare because the product uses remote journaling.

About Autoliv

Autoliv is the world's #1 producer of car safety equipment. The company makes airbags, seat belts, anti-whiplash systems, and safety electronics. Other products include rollover-protection systems, steering wheels with airbags, and child seats. Customers include all major carmakers. Autoliv has 20 crash-test tracks, nine technical centers, and production facilities in 29 countries.

In addition, Christensen's team learned iTera HA customers regularly test and use the role swap process because it's so simple to execute. But what locked the decision to choose iTera HA was the price. "When we saw the performance of iTera HA and then the price, it became a no-brainer."

After iTera HA was installed, the benefits were immediately apparent. First, as promised, the apply-latency problem nearly disappeared; second, once the product was fully installed and configured, it took significantly less time to monitor and manage. But the real test came just six weeks after installation when Autoliv's production System i5 had a sudden and critical system failure. IBM determined that the backplane had failed. A replacement part would be put on a flight from San Diego within the next couple of hours. At 11:30 PM, Christensen received bad news: the part could not be flown out of San Diego due to major wildfires burning in the area.

Failover: the real test of HA

At this point, Autoliv's IT team decided to initiate a failover, which would make the mirrored backup machine the temporary production machine, and all users, processes and interfaces shift to this system. Upon contacting iTera HA's 24x7 support team, Christensen was guided through the process (completed in minutes). Afterwards, all business-critical applications were fully functional on the backup machine. "With iTera HA, the two machines were entirely in sync when the failure occurred," relates a very relieved Mark Christensen.

The final result: not one customer shipment was late and no transactions were lost. Autoliv truly knows the value of a reliable high availability solution.

The real test of its high availability solution came just six weeks after installation when Autoliv's production System i5 had a sudden and critical system failure.

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