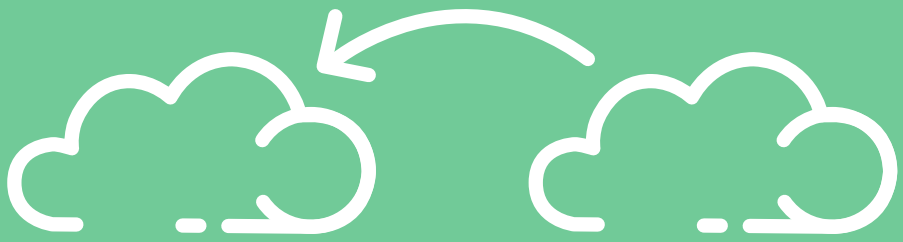
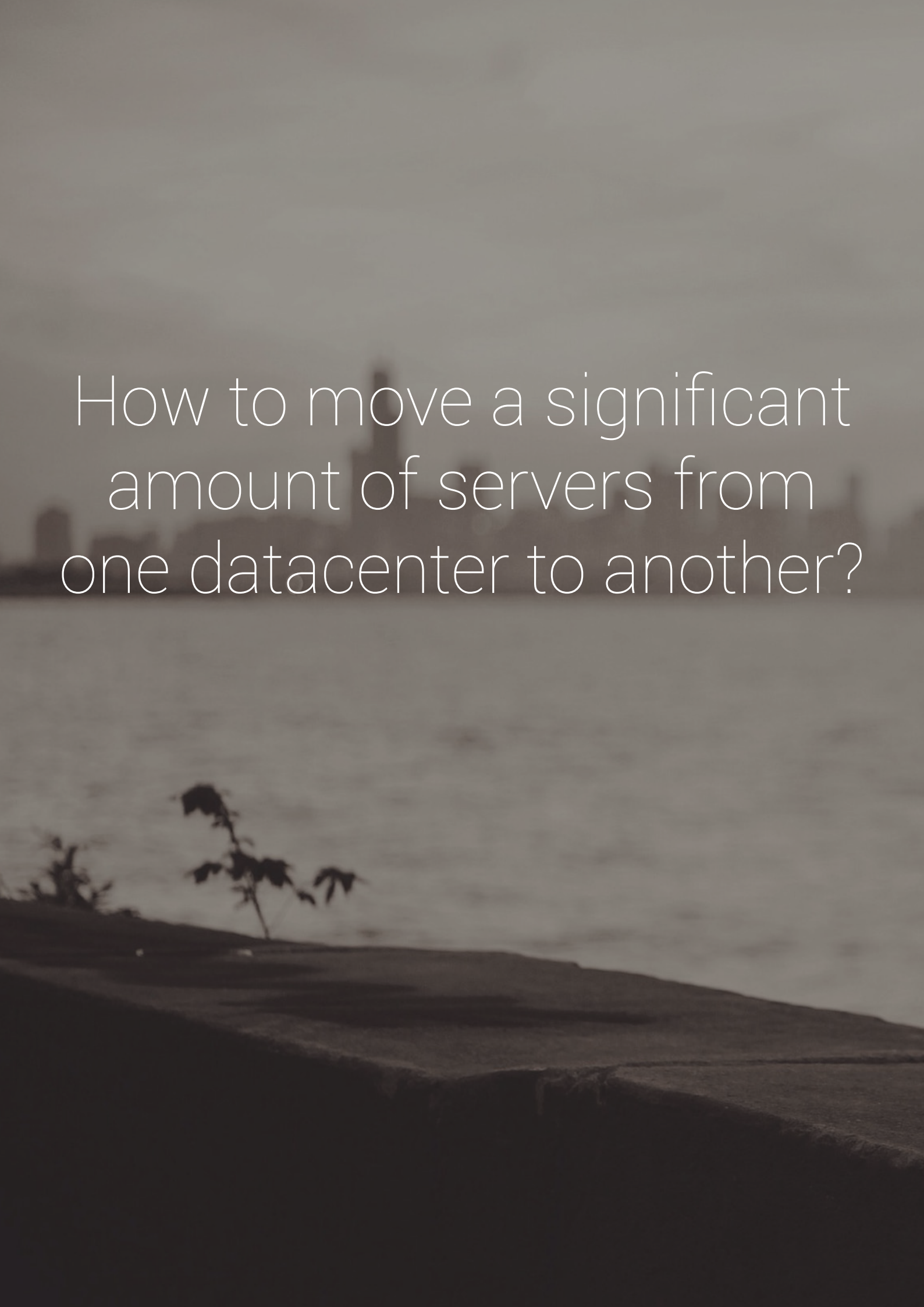


Speedy, stable and secure

TBMR facilitates successful migration

Case study



How to move a significant amount of servers from one datacenter to another?

Read how QD, a Swedish service provider, helped the billion SEK company Setra to do it at limited time.

When Swedish IT service provider QD was asked by Setra to quickly move a large number of servers, with limited access to existing IT environment, QD put its trust in Cristie TBMR. By using the application to migrate all data, QD could bypass the existing service provider and fulfill the project requirements ahead of plan. The efficient migration helped QD to win Setra's long-term confidence.

Family-owned QD offers IT as a service, and holds clients all across Sweden. In 2014, leading wood company Setra turned to QD with a hurried request: to help them migrate its whole IT environment within a very tight time schedule. Setra's current contract expired at the end of December 2014, and they were now on the hunt for a new service provider; an experienced supplier that could offer secure, personalized IT services while shortening lead-times. A conventional procurement process, covering competence, method etc., had pointed them in QD's direction.

Peter Sundelin was infrastructure manager at QD and onsite manager in Uppsala at the time.

"Setra asked us to migrate a large number of servers without risking the company's ongoing production process, something that called for minimum malfunction and downtime."

Limited IT access

Challenging, yes, but the most delicate problem was yet to come: Setra's existing service provider was unwilling to cooperate and to give QD any deeper access to its IT environment. Poor bandwidth to the existing site made everything even more complicated for QD.

"At the initial contact, we told Setra that the migration method of choice would depend on how helpful their existing partner was," said Peter Sundelin. "It soon became obvious that we needed to bypass them completely."

TBMR handles the works

Internally, QD faced other challenges. Setra's servers were placed in South of Sweden, while the QD site was located in Stockholm. A great number of servers to handle, combined with logistic and time-related challenges, thus required an innovative migration approach.

QD decided to use Cristie TBMR (Bare Machine Recovery for IBM Tivoli Storage Manager) to migrate all Setra's servers, virtual as well as physical. TBMR is a powerful, easy-to-use software that allows users to recover machines directly from their TSM backups. Designed to provide rapid, automatic machine recovery to an identical state it's capable of restoring "anything to anything": from similar to dissimilar hardware, from physical to virtual to cloud in any direction.

A controlled migration

The choice of TMBR made it possible to migrate Setra's servers without having to involve the former service provider: TBMR allowed QD to migrate all data to new hardware in a fast and reliable way. Access to install the TBMR application was simply enough for QD to be able to perform a controlled and safe migration server by server. During the process, it was also easy for QD to continuously troubleshoot and to immediately solve any issues that occurred.

"One can say that we simulated a disaster recovery at Setra's previous site and restored all data in our own IT environment at the new site," said Peter Sundelin.

Expanded partnership

The successful migration project was a precondition for the long-term partnership between QD and Setra. The company has now chosen QD to manage its server and client platform, both centrally in QD's data center and locally in Setra's various sawmills.

"We performed the migration in less time than estimated, and finished before deadline," said Peter Sundelin. "Setra was well aware of the tough challenges and was overwhelmed when everything went smoothly. But to be honest, at QD we never doubted that we could handle the migration successfully—we knew we had both the tools and staff needed."

TBMR is now part of QD's backup solution and has been used in other projects.

Benefits

- One routine for recovering physical, virtual or cloud based servers—independently of brands, models or environments
- Simple, fast and smooth disaster recovery function
- Controlled migration instead of big bang; easy to troubleshoot during process
- Simultaneous recovery of multiple servers

Available tools for #servermobility

Migration through native backup:
- TBMR for IBM Spectrum Protect
- ABMR for EMC Avamar
- NBMR for EMC Networker
- SBMR for CommVault Simpana

Direct migration, server to server:
Cristie CloneManager

"Considering the conditions—lack of time, limited access to IT environment and requirements for minimal interference—our knowledge together with TBMR was a prerequisite for the successful project."

Peter Sundelin, infrastructure manager at QD during the project

About QD

QD delivers solutions for IT management, and functions as an external IT department or manages specific parts of a customer's IT environment. Located in Stockholm, Uppsala and Sundsvall, QD strives to support its customers through competence, accessibility, and personal service.

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