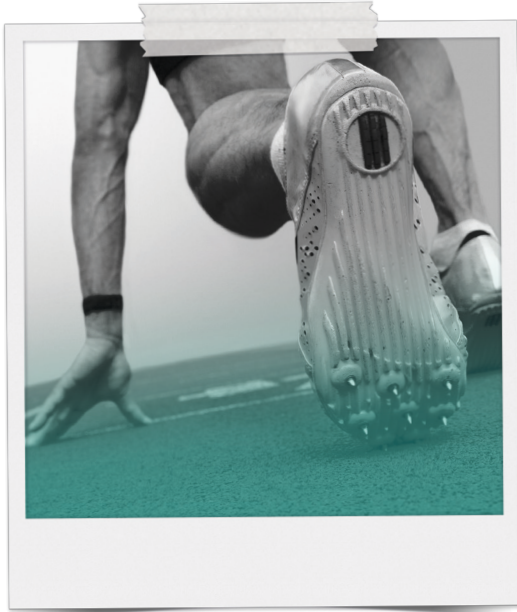# Multi Support Next Large Volume Partitioning

multi support®

do more. faster.

Speed is the answer
to big archives and
small backup windows.

Huge amounts of vital business documents in your business archive make backup and high availability solutions increasingly important. Backing up a complete Integrated Files System (IFS) with sometimes millions of documents takes time. At the same time you need 24/7 access to your business systems, reducing the time available for backup to almost nothing. Multi Support Next Large Volume Partitioning helps you address this challenge.

With Multi Support Next for IBM i you have a rock-solid document and process management platform based on the DB2 and IFS that comes with the IBM i.

Metadata is stored in DB2 and documents are stored in the IFS in a structure that suits your need for security and backup/recovery.

If you need more flexibility the 'Optional Storage' module lets you move selected documents to optical libraries, tape libraries, SAN disk, and external PC servers.

The most recent addition to 'Optional Storage' — Next Large Volume Partitioning — moves documents into the DB2 database and hence frees up the IFS.

Freeing up the IFS allows your High Availability Software to perform much better and reduces backup time dramatically.

Consider Large Volume Partitioning when you have:

- Many documents in the archive

- Transaction-based high availability setup

- Limited backup window

"

Our IFS backup went from 150 hours to 25 minutes.

— Jesper Juul Fjeldgaard,
Technical Analyst, DT Group

Next LVP by the numbers

Deploying Multi Support Next Large Volume Partitioning had a significant impact at DT Group.

	Before	After
Number of documents	62,219,312	unchanged
Storage requirement	2,55 TB	1,95 TB
IFS Backup	150 h	25 min
DB2 Backup	1 h 20 min	4 h
Save Sec data	24+ h	8 min

DT Group

Being the largest retailer and distributor of building materials in the Nordic region, DT Group generates a lot of documents and requires Multi Support Next to be available 24/7.

Questions and answers

We have 100,000 documents or so. Is LVP (Large Volume Partitioning) right for us?
It depends on how long time it takes to do a complete backup of your Integrated File System (IFS). Normally, you'll need a bigger archive to reap the benefits of LVP.

How does my Vision or Quick EDD High Availability (HA) solution benefit from LVP?
Most HA solutions are much more efficient in replicating DB2 data than IFS files.

Does LVP require my documents to be offloaded or restored?
No. The LVP module includes an automatic utility that migrates documents from the traditional IFS storage to the DB2 based LVP storage.

Will my business archive be unavailable for long?
No. All documents are available during the entire migration process.

Will LVP require any changes to the integration into our ERP system.
No. The LVP is completely transparent to the end user and to any systems integrated with Multi Support Next.

We have the Optional Storage for Multi Support Next. Is LVP included?
No. You will have to upgrade your Optional Storage module to include LVP at an additional license fee.

Why does it take so much longer to backup a huge IFS compared to using LVP?
IFS is an extremely flexible file system with a lot of metadata and security data attached to each individual document. By migrating documents into the DB2 this information is managed for a batch (or a partition) of documents instead of each individual document.

Are there any drawbacks from using LVP?
Not really. The documents you choose to store using LVP are all located at your central IBM i server. If you need documents to be placed on other servers you simply exclude them from LVP.

Multi Support
Multi Support helps companies run better by optimizing business processes and workflows. Since 1986 thousands of companies have relied on Multi Support products and services to achieve greater business success.

Multi Support has a network of certified business partners throughout the world and offices in the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland.