



**Seirbhís Phríosúin  
na hÉireann**  
Irish Prison Service

# IRISH PRISON SERVICE LOCKS DOWN SECURITY WITH DATA STORAGE SOLUTIONS FROM HPE AND SCALITY

HPE Apollo 4000 and Scality RING reliably  
preserve critical surveillance data

## Industry

Government

## Objective

Deliver reliable, secure, and scalable  
storage of critical video surveillance data  
used for incident investigation

## Approach

Deploy two Scality RING clouds built on  
HPE Apollo 4000 systems for long-term  
retention with HPE ProLiant servers and  
CTERA for local storage

## IT matters

- Strengthens security for storing critical  
surveillance video
- Increases scalability and durability of  
long-term video storage
- Streamlines storage administration,  
freeing IT staff for other projects

## Business matters

- Helps ensure the safety of prison staff  
and inmates
- Reliably preserves video data for  
incident investigation
- Improves efficiency with systematic  
data deletion based on law and policy



**Using intelligent data storage solutions from HPE, Scality, and CTERA, Irish Prison Service securely and reliably preserves high-definition surveillance video for incident investigation, which is critical to ensuring the safety of staff and prisoners. This end-to-end solution delivers strong security with massive scalability and high efficiency to manage this critical video data over many years, and systematically deleting old data when allowed by law and policy.**

**“Video data has a huge impact on the safety and security of our staff and prisoners. People’s lives are at stake in extreme cases. Therefore, it’s hugely important that there are safeguards around how the data is stored and secured. HPE and Scality provide us with assurance that those safeguards are in place and that they will work.”**

– George Jackson, Head of ICT, Irish Prison Service



The wings of any prison may seem like an intimidating space. However, Irish Prison Service strives to make it as safe and secure as possible for staff and prisoners. The service cares for prisoners with dignity and oversees their rehabilitation to help build safer communities upon their release. All this requires highly trained, skilled professionals. But it also takes technology.

Video surveillance is fundamental to ensuring the safety and security of prisoners and staff across Ireland’s 12 prison facilities. The Irish Prison Service operates approximately 5,000 cameras continuously recording the movement and actions of everyone in the facilities, and any incidents captured on video serve as crucial evidence for investigating an incident. In fact, under Irish Prison Service policy, video footage of incidents must be stored for four years and one day—the video can only be deleted after that exact period of time and only then if the case has been resolved.

The prison service had been storing incident video on a traditional storage array since 2008; however, it had never been deleted. The service lacked the visibility and a technical process for securely and systematically deleting video, and over so many years, the storage array was running out of capacity. Moreover, the prison service recently upgraded its surveillance infrastructure with new high-definition cameras to enhance the visual quality and intelligence of footage to further improve the safety and security of its facilities. That meant larger video files, and even more storage demands.

George Jackson, head of information and communication technology for the Irish Prison Service, says, “We clearly needed to upgrade our storage infrastructure with a solution that was more scalable, but also provide a method of deleting video to keep our storage levels more manageable from both a capacity and cost perspective.”

### **DURABLE, SECURE, AND LONG-TERM STORAGE FOR CRITICAL VIDEO DATA**

Jackson and his team evaluated a number of possible solutions, ultimately selecting one proposed by HPE. The HPE solution included local storage using CTERA running on HPE ProLiant DL380 Servers to capture video 24x7 at each prison facility, and long-term off-site storage built on HPE Apollo 4000 systems and Scality RING to securely retain video of incidents.

Jackson notes, “HPE came to us with an end-to-end solution, which met all of our needs. It provides a level of storage that’s quite large and allows plenty of room for expansion. Also important, it gives us the ability to look at the data, determine if it’s still needed or not for an open investigation of the incident, and delete it in a manageable way after four years and one day.”





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Today, the HPE ProLiant DL380 Servers at each facility provide 5 terabytes of raw storage to handle all the video captured locally, with expansion up to 64 terabytes. CTERA software provides FIPS 140-2 encryption of the video data at rest to ensure its security, and systematically deletes the oldest footage on a rolling 30-day basis. CTERA also manages the transfer of all incident footage to the long-term storage. There, two Scality RING storage clouds, each comprising six HPE Apollo 4200 systems, provide 300 terabytes of usable, secure storage that scales to multiple petabytes if needed. Scality also manages replication between the two environments, protecting the data by having a complete copy of the archive always available in the event of a disaster. HPE Proactive Care from HPE Pointnext Services provides technical support for the HPE hardware.

### **STREAMLINES STORAGE ADMINISTRATION OVER THE ENTIRE DATA LIFECYCLE**

Storing sensitive video data over a long period requires the utmost in security. However, Jackson and his team also need a solution that’s easy to manage and enables video data to be deleted when appropriate. HPE and Scality deliver on all counts.

According to Jackson, data transfers from local storage to the Scality RING are now fast and efficient. “We had situations in the past where data transfers to our back-end storage could take a long time. The HPE and Scality solution is more streamlined, so the information comes across much faster.”

Jackson also points out, “The storage in the HPE and Scality environment is locked down. Only certain people can see it, and only certain people can delete it. The security around that is quite strong and granular.”

The reason for such strong security is directly associated with the prison service’s mission to ensure the security and safety of its staff and the prisoners under their watch. Every incident must be properly investigated to determine, for example, if a particular inmate is a threat to others as evidenced in the video. Likewise, any potential abuse of prisoners requires investigation and assurance that the footage cannot be deleted to mask the incident.

When video data does age to four years and one day—becoming eligible for deletion by Irish Prison Service policy—Jackson wants that process to be easy and efficient. Scality software provides intelligent data management throughout the lifecycle of the stored video, including secure and automated deletion. Moreover, to be certain the deletion process is carried out with full transparency, the solution includes a series of email alerts to advise relevant parties in advance of deletion, beginning at the three-year mark and progressing with more frequent notices up to the day prior to scheduled deletion.

“Administration is much easier than our previous solution,” Jackson affirms. “It’s a very robust, efficient, and easy-to-manage solution that allows my guys to stand back and focus on other projects. We have a comfort level now, knowing that data will be deleted and not require a lot of extra time managing a huge buildup in storage.”



## Case study

Irish Prison Service

## Industry

Government

### Customer at a glance

#### Solution

Scalable, secure, local, and off-site long-term storage for video surveillance data

#### Hardware

- HPE Apollo 4200 systems
- HPE ProLiant DL380 Servers

#### Software

- Scality RING
- CTERA Portal

#### HPE Pointnext Services

- HPE Proactive Care

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### SECURITY THAT'S ESSENTIAL WHEN LIVES ARE AT STAKE

Security, reliability, efficiency, and scalability—are essential in a storage solution preserving video data essential to ensuring the safety and security of prison staff and inmates. Jackson underscores this point, saying, “Video data has a huge impact on the safety and security of our staff and prisoners. People’s lives are at stake in extreme cases. Therefore, it’s hugely important that there are safeguards around how the data is stored and secured. HPE and Scality provide us with assurance that those safeguards are in place and that they will work.”

Jackson concludes, “Prisons can be difficult environments, so any technology we use must work. We’ve had a very good relationship with HPE for many years and have confidence in the solution HPE and Scality have brought. It does what it says on the tin. That’s a huge thing for us. If there is an incident, it’s highly important that the solution works and is reliable.”

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