



## **From Risk to Resilience: Strengthening Oscar Mayer's IT Continuity with HyperSwap and CopyAssure**

Oscar Mayer, a leading UK chilled food manufacturer, supplies top retailers and food service providers. Downtime risks perishable goods, lost revenue, and customer trust. To ensure near-zero downtime, Oscar Mayer implemented IBM Flash Systems® with HyperSwap and CopyAssure for high availability and rapid recovery.

## The Challenge

Oscar Mayer faced significant challenges typical of the food industry:

- **Downtime Sensitivity:** Even a brief outage could lead to perishable food spoilage, substantial revenue losses, and eroded trust with key customers.
- **High Availability Requirements:** The live production environment demanded continuous uptime and seamless operations.
- **Data Recovery Needs:** As cyberattacks and data breaches become increasingly common, the ability to recover data rapidly and accurately was critical.

These challenges necessitated a robust solution combining high availability with disaster recovery (DR) capabilities, ensuring data integrity and operational continuity.

## The Solution

### IBM Flash Systems with HyperSwap and CopyAssure

Oscar Mayer implemented an active-active configuration using two IBM Flash Systems interconnected via HyperSwap and safeguarded by CopyAssure. Here's how these technologies addressed their needs:

#### HyperSwap for High Availability

HyperSwap is an innovative storage solution that provides seamless failover between two storage systems. This has enabled Oscar Mayer to achieve:

##### 1. Active-Active Configuration

- Both IBM Flash Systems are configured to actively manage workloads.
- This ensures that if one system experiences a failure, the other automatically takes over without impacting operations.

##### 2. Near-Zero Downtime

- The HyperSwap setup ensures continuous availability of data, even during planned maintenance or unexpected outages.

##### 3. Geographic Redundancy

- The two storage systems have been placed in separate physical locations, mitigating the risks of localised disruptions.

#### CopyAssure for Data Recovery

CopyAssure complemented the HyperSwap setup by focusing on data protection and recovery. It provides:

##### 1. Rapid Data Recovery

- In the event of a cyberattack, ransomware incident, or data corruption, CopyAssure allows Oscar Mayer to recover data swiftly.

##### 2. Data Consistency

- Regular snapshots and integrity checks ensure that backups are consistent and reliable for restoration.

##### 3. Compliance and Auditability

- CopyAssure maintains detailed records of data copies, helping the company meet regulatory requirements.



# CopyAssure for Data Recovery

CopyAssure provides robust recovery assurance by taking immutable snapshots every hour and validating them through full system recovery, operating system integrity checks, and bespoke application checks. It validates each **immutable snapshot** at the moment of creation, ensuring that Oscar Mayer always has a proven recovery point for its business-critical system running IBM i. It complements the HyperSwap setup by focusing on data protection and rapid recovery.

## Key Benefits of CopyAssure

### 1. Rapid Data Recovery

- In the event of a cyberattack, ransomware incident, or data corruption, CopyAssure enables swift data restoration.
- Recovery Point Objective (RPO) and Recovery Time Objective (RTO) have been significantly improved, shifting from nightly backups to hourly snapshots with full system recovery in minutes instead of hours.

### 2. Data Consistency & Proven Recovery

- Hourly snapshots and integrity checks ensure that backups remain consistent and reliable.
- Proven recovery provided by performing full system restores and bespoke application validations, ensuring that recovery works when needed.

### 3. Compliance & Auditability

- Records of recovery success and timings to meet compliance and regulatory requirements.



## Performance & Resilience Outcomes

By deploying a combined solution of HyperSwap and CopyAssure, Oscar Mayer has achieved:



### Uninterrupted Operations

- An active-active architecture ensures that even during hardware failures, operations continue seamlessly.



### Improved Resilience

- Reduced risks associated with unplanned downtime, data loss, and evolving cyber threats, ensures greater operational continuity and data resilience.



### Enhanced Customer Trust

- Reliable, consistent deliveries reinforce relationships with top UK retailers and food service providers.



### Cost Savings

- Avoiding downtime and data loss has realised significant financial benefits, reducing the cost of perished goods and missed revenue.

# Lessons Learned

## Integration Matters

Combining high-availability solutions like HyperSwap with data recovery tools such as CopyAssure ensures comprehensive resilience.

## Proactive Planning is Key

Implementing a geographically redundant system with rapid recovery mechanisms prepares businesses for both expected and unexpected disruptions.

## Tailored Solutions Work Best

The solution's success lay in its alignment with Oscar Mayer's specific industry requirements.

## Conclusion

Oscar Mayer's adoption of IBM Flash Systems with HyperSwap and CopyAssure highlights the power of modern storage and data recovery solutions in mitigating downtime risks.

This case study underscores the importance of investing in high-availability and data recovery technologies to stay competitive and maintain customer trust in critical industries like chilled food manufacturing.

By embracing these innovations, Oscar Mayer not only safeguarded their operations but also set a benchmark for resilience in the food industry.



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