



CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORIES

Zucchetti Works with EDB to Implement Cost-Effective, Scalable Database Archiving Solution for Electronic Invoices





CUSTOMER: ZUCCHETTI

Gregorio Piccoli
CTO at Zucchetti

“With our transaction volume, you’re always working... So we needed a solution that could perform backup and recover even while we’re working on the database.”

Gregorio Piccoli
CTO at Zucchetti



OVERVIEW

Processing up to one million electronic invoices a day, this Italian ERP provider needed a foolproof solution for digital preservation

For Gregorio Piccoli, CTO of Zucchetti, data security and disaster recovery is more than a performative box to be checked in the digital age; it's a legal imperative and crucial to the fiscal well-being of the company's more than 700,000 customers worldwide. The Zucchetti Group makes €2 billion in annual revenue, and they have 9,000 employees, 2,000 of which are dedicated exclusively to research and development.

Operating in Italy, Zucchetti is required by law to process all invoices electronically before sending them to the Ministry for approval, after which records must be securely stored for ten years. This proved to be a tall order even when the company's transaction volume was around 50,000 per day, but after substantial growth, it became an entirely different and increasingly urgent challenge.



“Our software sales now generate one million invoices every day,” says Piccoli. “We are the largest organization in the country dealing with electronic invoices, with 13-15% of the gross product of Italy passing through our systems. And if we lose any of this data, our customers can have fiscal problems.”

Considering the sheer volume of transactions processed daily and the specific needs of its cloud-based architecture, Zucchetti quickly realized it could no longer afford the performance issues that kept arising from a more generalized recovery tool. This is when EDB stepped in with a solution.



Closing the performance gaps

After intelligently implementing PostgreSQL to solve for database management scalability, Piccoli and the Zucchetti Group still had a major issue: the backup and recovery solution it was using targeted a single system and didn't provide granular controls or visibility into the company's complex, Postgres-based architecture.

"We were using a specialized system for any kind of backup and not specific to Postgres. This allowed only for a single system backup, so while we were able to perform multiple backups, there was a very long elapsed time to understand if they had been performed correctly in certain areas. For example, it was taking up to two months to check on the security of data contained in secondary or non-main systems."

Piccoli inquired about finding a solution for this latest challenge and learned that implementing EDB's Barman would allow for much broader and more efficient oversight of the backup process. This enhanced ability to control and confirm the security of its databases provided Zucchetti with the confidence it needed to continue its growth trajectory.

"With Barman, we have clear control over what is happening at all times and are able to check if a backup is okay or not. It's also more specific to Postgres and more complete, allowing us to not only verify security and restoration across a number of systems rather than a single system, but also to simulate the restore process to see if everything is okay before moving forward."

With constantly growing transaction volumes, cost structure matters

The cost of database backup and recovery is always a major factor to consider, but even more so when you're dealing with increasingly high volumes of data. So for the Zucchetti Group, whose transaction volume only continues to rise, paying for backups based strictly on volume simply isn't sustainable.

While Piccoli couldn't pinpoint a specific number when speaking to the cost savings achieved by building out a custom solution with EDB's Barman and 2ndQuadrant, he noted that the difference was significant based solely on the contrast between cost structures. More specifically, whereas previous backup processes were priced based on data volume and conversions, EDB's service allows Zucchetti to pay for the system rather than individual processes.

"Before it was a combination of different costs, including paying for volume which was quite expensive. Now we only pay for the system, not the volume."

Moreover, Piccoli noted that the cost-effective nature of EDB's solution was merely an added perk to acquiring a solution uniquely suited to the company's needs. In other words, even if their former solution had been less expensive, it still wouldn't have been feasible in the long term.

"Single systems solutions may be fine for virtual machines or small databases, but with our transaction volume, you're always working and don't have moments where you can stop to run and check on backups. So we needed a solution that could perform backup and recovery even while we're working on the database."



Scalability means preparedness for the future

In addition to being vastly more equipped to manage securely and backup data at its current volume, Zucchetti's work with EDB has given their organization a considerable boost of confidence in their ability to tackle any challenges that may be on the horizon. This includes possible changes in regulation and the very real prospect of an exponential increase in database volume in the near future, even if it requires an additional system.

In addressing pending regulatory developments, Piccoli confirmed only that changes may be possible, some of which might result in a record-keeping burden ten times what the company faces today. He said that the solution provided by EDB and ongoing support from Postgres experts make him confident that they'll be up to the task.

"Eight years ago we were not able to deal with one million invoices every day, now we have the ability to handle not only that but considerably larger amounts, as well as having one of very few structures in the country that will be able to manage what may be coming."

"Eight years ago we were not able to deal with one million invoices every day, now we have the ability to handle not only that but considerably larger amounts."

Gregorio Piccoli
CTO at Zucchetti



EDB provides a data and AI platform that enables organizations to harness the full power of Postgres for transactional, analytical, and AI workloads across any cloud, any time. For more information, visit www.enterprisedb.com.