



CUSTOMER STORY



SPAR

SPAR holding BV automates data protection and management with Commvault® Cloud.



Independent grocers network streamlines data management with Commvault's simple, flexible solution.

## At A Glance

**Industry:**  
Retail

**Location:**  
Netherlands

**Website:**  
www.spar.nl

### SPAR holding BV

- Group of independently owned and operated food retailers and wholesalers
- More than 450 independent stores across the Netherlands, plus about 100 partner stores using SPAR logistics for purchasing and distribution

**Solution provider:**  
Alkum Solutions BV

- Specialist in Security and Continuity  
Alkum merges two market disciplines into one approach, Security and Continuity.
- Client-Centric Collaboration  
The company places a strong emphasis on understanding the unique challenges and aspirations of each client, fostering a genuine partnership beyond typical vendor-client relationships.

## CHALLENGE

- Legacy backup systems are fragmented and hard to manage and maintain
- Excessive demands on system engineers due to multiple data locations
- Lack of a reliable and flexible backup to protect company and partner data

## SOLUTION

Implemented Commvault® Cloud Autonomous Recovery with Backup & Recovery for Microsoft 365

## RESULTS

- Reduced data management workload for IT staff
- Enhanced protection from cyberattacks
- Ability to proactively respond to potential disruption in backup processes



**“Backups are no longer enough. The key lies in creating backups that seamlessly combine security and rapid restoration. Alkum Solutions emerges as the beacon of expertise, offering businesses a trusted partnership to navigate the intricate realm of secure and swift data backups.”**

**Andy Schuurman**  
CEO, Alkum Solutions BV

## PROTECTING DATA EFFICIENTLY ACROSS A DIVERSE BUSINESS NETWORK

SPAR Holding BV (SPAR) is a Dutch food retailer with around 450 stores across the Netherlands, comprised of independent SPAR stores and retail partners who use SPAR logistics for purchasing and distribution.

SPAR currently focuses on smaller food retail outlets, with plans to make further inroads into the convenience store market segment as consumer behaviour evolves toward easier, ready-made fresh food options. Eventually, SPAR plans to extend this strategy into providing pre-prepared foods in unstaffed retail outlets and vending machines.

**At A Glance (cont.)****Website:**

www.allkum.nl

**Key assets protected**

- 300TB on-premises data
- 850 Microsoft Office 365 users
- 60TB Commvault Cloud storage

**Environment**

- Commvault Cloud Autonomous Recovery
- Microsoft 365

"The market is changing, especially with a younger demographic, who cook for themselves less. They're ready to grab something to eat on the go, or maybe in a few hours," said Gert-Jan van den IJssel, Manager Infra & Workspace from SPAR Holding BV. "Our strategy is to become the king of convenience in upcoming years."

Catering to changing customer tastes means SPAR needs easy access to data about purchasing trends and habits. Plus, with unstaffed outlets like vending machines, SPAR must carefully select locations and efficiently exchange information with the retail partners responsible for ordering and stocking these sales avenues.

"We do not just randomly place a supermarket in a location. We look at what best fits our customers, whether that's a small shop or a vending machine," Gert-Jan said.

**SUPPORTING PARTNERS BY STREAMLINING DATA MANAGEMENT**

Since independent entrepreneurs manage SPAR's retail outlets, the company is committed to supporting them by handling data backups and systems maintenance responsibilities.

"Up until about two years ago, we still had quite a few legacy on-premises file shares which were locally managed," Gert-Jan said. "We wanted to move toward more data-driven decision making, with modern reports based on algorithms and a new dashboard."

Because SPAR relies on third-party software for its supply chain management and monitoring of its vending machine outlets, the integration layer is crucial. SPAR chose a Microsoft integration layer based on cloud technology and started building Azure data in the cloud.

"Of course, we started too late with backing up our cloud data. We already moved our data to the cloud and did not have any backup environment," Gert-Jan said.



**"Outsourcing backup management to our partner Alkum gives us peace of mind."**

**Gert-Jan van den IJssel**  
Manager Infra & Workspace, SPAR Holding BV

## SAFEGUARDING DATA WITH A RELIABLE BACKUP SOLUTION

Gert-Jan wanted to ensure that SPAR's crucial data was protected yet easily accessible. With his business partners, he commissioned a report to assess the company's current data management strategy. The evaluation found its current approach to be fragmented and piecemeal. SPAR had already migrated to virtual machines and used Ven and Log for backups, with no database scripts. It needed a simpler, more scalable, and more secure solution.

SPAR wanted to outsource its backup environment and went to Alkum Solutions BV (Alkum). Alkum has outsourcing solutions that are offered with the primary aim of taking the heavy lifting off the customer. Alkum used Commvault to take all the worrying aspects surrounding complicated and time-consuming process of checking backups. "With data management, it's no longer only about backup, recovery, or security. Instead, we took a pragmatic, holistic approach," Gert-Jan said. "We chose the hardware and Commvault software, and within a few months, the rollout was complete."



**"Our business is changing rapidly, and with Commvault, we can adapt our environment at the same speed."**

Gert-Jan van den IJssel  
Manager Infra & Workspace, SPAR Holding BV

## EMPOWERING PARTNERS WITH A STREAMLINED SOLUTION


With Commvault Cloud, SPAR's retail partners can safeguard their own data easily while the company manages the on-premises environment and supports them in recovery with Autonomous Recovery.

Gert-Jan said Commvault has added greater confidence and reassurance to how SPAR and its partners conduct their business.

SPAR now protects its data and that of its retail partners, including their mailboxes and personal data. Legislation requires the company to retain some data for as long as seven years. It offers its partners a range of tiered data protection plans, depending on their requirements.

"The people from these businesses just want to run their business," Gert-Jan said. "They're doing sales, logistics, and finance. They don't want to deal with these kinds of sophisticated and complex questions, so we need to help them."

With the standardization Commvault Cloud provides, managing diverse data from hundreds of individual entrepreneurs becomes simple. "If they need a specific file that was accidentally deleted, it's an easy fix," reported Gert-Jan.



**"Security is an increasing risk. It's not a matter of if we will get hacked. It is more a question of when it will occur. That's why it's good to have a platform that can quickly do a full recovery."**

Gert-Jan van den IJssel  
Manager Infra & Workspace, SPAR Holding BV

## CENTRALIZING MANAGEMENT FOR ENHANCED EFFICIENCY

With Commvault, SPAR manages all its backup and recovery processes in a single place. Authentication is more secure, and because IT staff no longer must search multiple locations for data, it frees resources to focus on adding additional layers to further refine the system.

"Knowing we have a good backup solution means you can have a good night's sleep and rest assured that everything is safe," Gert-Jan said.



**"Commvault Cloud fits our cloud-first strategy while keeping all our user data safe and separated from our on-prem infrastructure."**

**Gert-Jan van den IJssel**  
Manager Infra & Workspace, SPAR Holding BV

To learn more, visit [commvault.com](https://commvault.com)