



*"Offering balesio AG's Native Format Optimization technology as a service to all our users effectively reduces the amount of bloated files and consequently relieves our network."*

**Jérémy Verrier**  
IT Director  
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## SNCF delivers balesio AG's Native Format Optimization as a service to its users and removes file bloat in the network

The SNCF operates almost all of France's railway system including the famous TGV and is with around 180,000 employees worldwide one of France's largest companies and ranked in the Global Fortune 500. The IT department in the Technical Center Nevers in Varennes, France implemented balesio AG's Native Format Optimization (NFO) technology as a service to its users to remove file bloat. The solution was realized using balesio's FILEminimizer Server and its flexible policy-based optimization settings which allow a "file bloat removal on demand".

### Key Highlights

#### ORGANISATION:

SNCF (Société Nationale des Chemins de fer français), France  
**180,000** employees worldwide

#### NETWORK ENVIRONMENT:

Virtualized NAS (VMware)  
accessed via virtualized Windows Server 2003 Storage Ed. (VMware)

#### INDUSTRY:

Transportation (Railway)

#### CHALLENGES:

- Growing amount of bloated MS Office, PDF and image files in the network
- Increased difficulty for users to manage, send and share bloated files
- File bloat puts heavy strain on network, bandwidth and performance

#### SOLUTION:

balesio FILEminimizer Server

#### ACHIEVED RESULTS:

- On-demand Native Format Optimization (NFO) of files without end-user interaction
- IT could get rid of bloated files in network
- User productivity increased

#### THE CUSTOMER CHALLENGE: UNSTRUCTURED FILE BLOAT

The SNCF is headquartered in Paris, with various regional offices and technical centers across France. In the technical center Nevers, engineers and staff frequently create PowerPoint decks, Word documents, Excel tables and PDF files which are stored on a virtualized NAS system. In addition, a lot of image files are produced. Such files are notorious for causing file bloat, i.e. contents are not stored in the most efficient way inside these files causing them to become irrationally big ("bloated"). This leads to difficulties among users to handle such files and also puts a heavy constraint on the communication bandwidth and network traffic.

#### THE SOLUTION: FILEMINIMIZER SERVER

The SNCF realized that file bloat was at the root of this problem and very soon discovered that other proclaimed storage optimization technologies such as deduplication did not provide a viable solution for highly active, bloated files on primary storage. The company chose to deploy balesio AG's proven Native Format Optimization (NFO) technology via FILEminimizer Server. The SNCF installed the software on a virtualized Windows Server 2003 Storage Edition with access to the company's virtualized NAS system. Via its feature to run pre-defined policy-

based optimization profiles in a scheduled way, the SNCF is able to provide balesio's powerful file optimization to all users of the technical center Nevers as a service.

#### BUSINESS BENEFITS

After the deployment of FILEminimizer Server, Jérémy Verrier, the IT Director at SNCF in Varennes could offer a very valuable service to its users: an on-demand file optimization and file bloat removal. Previously users found creative ways to send and share bloated files which resulted in heavy strains on both bandwidth and network. Now, users conveniently save bloated files in a special location on the virtualized NAS which FILEminimizer Server routinely scans. Files saved there are reduced by 50-90% in size and users are informed in near real-time when they can pick up the optimized file with removed file bloat. This new convenience allows not only for less bloated files being present in the organization but also for an increased user productivity. And for Jérémy Verrier the benefits go beyond the new convenience for the users: *"Offering balesio AG's Native Format Optimization technology as a service to all our users effectively reduces the amount of bloated files and consequently relieves our network."*