EVRY

"Because many transactions that go through ERP applications we host come from the Web, there would be no way to recreate them if they were lost. So the zero RPO [recovery point objective] supported by MIMIX is important for our customers."

— Odd Egil Byrkjedal, Key Account Manager

Business Profile

Company Name:
EVRY

Headquarters:
Oslo, Norway

Industry:
Information Technology

Business Environment:
• Employees: 10,000
• Annual turnover: NOK 13-billion
• Largest IT company in Norway
• One-million Norwegians per day use its services

Implementation Team:
EVRY and Vision Solutions

Critical Issue

EVRY is the largest IT company in Norway. Every day, one million Norwegians use services delivered by systems it hosts. Over the course of a week, almost everyone in Norway uses services delivered by EVRY. With so much of the country depending on its systems, ensuring continuous application availability and protecting the underlying data from loss are critical issues of the highest order for EVRY.

Results

• Supports RPOs of zero
• Ensures continuous operations
• Simplifies system migrations
• Eliminates maintenance downtime

Technologies

Software:
• MIMIX Availability
• Miscellaneous applications
• IBM i

Hardware:
• More than 20 IBM Power Systems servers; various models

Business Challenge

Disasters are rare, but they happen. What's more, less than disastrous events, such as hardware or power failures, sometimes halt systems. Even if you are fortunate enough to avoid unplanned downtime, planned maintenance, such as hardware and software upgrades and data backups, can force you to shut down a system.

All companies should consider the cost of downtime, but if thousands of users depend on the systems you host, as is the case with EVRY, downtime is never an option. The applications EVRY hosts must be up and running around the clock. Customers demand it.

Applications are worthless without their data. Thus, EVRY needs to protect more than application uptime. It also needs to ensure that none of the underlying data is ever lost. This is particularly important because many of the transactions EVRY processes arrive via the Web or other electronic channels, without any paper trail, making it almost impossible to recreate them if they are lost.

The desire to ensure that no data is lost is referred to as a recovery point objective (RPO) of zero. In the event of a disaster, EVRY needs to recover all of its data, right up to the point of the failure.

VISION SOLUTIONS

MIMIX® AVAILABILITY™

Solution

EVRY takes the availability of the data and applications on the servers it hosts exceptionally seriously. That's why it uses MIMIX Availability.

EVRY has large data centers in three Norwegian cities, but it also has highly secure data centers in multiple locations literally within a mountain. MIMIX Availability provides real-time replication to maintain up-to-the-instant replicas of IBM i-based servers in those locations.

In the event of a hardware failure, a disaster, or other unplanned downtime, EVRY can quickly switch to the replica server. Because all of the production data is already there, operations can continue with minimal interruption.

Disasters and other unexpected events are not the only cause of downtime. EVRY also uses MIMIX Availability to keep applications and data available during system upgrades by first upgrading the backup server. EVRY then switches users to the backup while it upgrades the primary server.

In addition, MIMIX Availability provides value when a customer moves its applications to servers hosted by EVRY. Traditionally, migrations were done by saving the data and applications, shipping them, and then loading them on servers at the new location. That might require a long-weekend. During that time, the applications would have to be halted. As Odd Egil Byrkjedal, a key account manager at EVRY, explains, that is unacceptable. "Our customers often can't be without their systems for more than a couple of hours, if that. MIMIX is the only way to do those migrations without lengthy downtime."

To perform a move, EVRY simply installs MIMIX Availability on the customer's server and uses it to create a replica on one of EVRY's servers. MIMIX Availability then keeps the two servers synchronized until the customer is ready to switch to EVRY's server.

MIMIX Availability also provides a means to recover corrupted data. When an object on a production system is damaged, hardware mirroring mirrors the corruption to the backup. The software-based replication of MIMIX Availability doesn't do that. As a result, the undamaged object will still be available on the backup server and it can easily be copied to the production server.

EVRY also uses MIMIX Availability to eliminate downtime normally associated with backing up data. Despite having replica servers, EVRY still takes backups of its data as a last line of defense. Because the replica server has an up-to-the-moment copy of the production server's data, EVRY takes backups on the secondary server, avoiding any impact on production systems.

In the end, it's all about making absolutely certain that the availability of data and applications is fully protected, no matter what.

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AVAILABILITY™

◆ Cloud Protection & Recovery   ◆ High Availability & Disaster Recovery   ◆ Migration & Cross-Platform Data Sharing ◆