KRISHIDHAN®

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Vinodanand Jha, Group IT Head, Krishidhan Seeds Private Limited

Business Profile

Company Name:
Krishidhan Seeds Private Limited, India

Headquarters:
Maharashtra, India

Founded:
1996

Industry:
Agricultural Biotech

Business Environment:
• Maintains 35 facilities
• Aggressive business plan calls for worldwide expansion
• Known for producing innovative seed products
• Facets of their business include R&D, production, quality control, processing, marketing and sales

Vision Solutions Product:
Double-Take RecoverNow for AIX

Implementation Team:
Avnet Technology Solutions India Pvt Ltd.

Critical issue

With thousands of transactions logged by Krishidhan's systems on a daily basis, an unexpected disaster could result in a direct and damaging loss to the business. Krishidhan needed to strengthen its IT infrastructure to achieve its goal as one of the largest seed providers with a global footprint.

Results

• Ensured uninterrupted business continuity
• Achieved real-time data protection
• Reduced their RTO from upwards of 12 weeks in severe situations to five hours
• Implemented a reliable, cost efficient and user friendly solution

Technologies

• Double-Take RecoverNow for AIX
• IBM AIX OS
• IBM HACMP
• SAP ERP

Business Challenge

Krishidhan Seeds Private Limited was established in 1996 in Jalna, India. The company thrived and eventually became a global player in agricultural biotech seed industry. Krishidhan seed products include cotton, cereals, oils and vegetables that boast of improved yield and are able to withstand harsh weather conditions.

Krishidhan added a feather to its cap when it became the first in India to migrate its IT infrastructure onto SAP's Enterprise Resource Planning suite running on IBM's AIX platform. The migration was aimed to equip its sales and distribution channels with enhanced computing tools and integrate it with all other departments.

Four years ago, the company had shifted all its operations to SAP's Online Real Time system that sits above the IBM AIX platform to connect 35 locations from its headquarters to production and processing plants to sales offices.

Krishidhan's technical team mapped all the business processes onto My SAP ECC 6.0 with data stored at a common IBM DB2 database. A private virtual network was put in place to ensure a 24/7 round the clock business. A No Single Point of Failure (NSPOF) strategy was implemented company-wide enabling dual-mode operation.

Although Krishidhan was protected with HACMP from IBM, they felt vulnerable to site related disasters. According to Group IT head Vinodanand Jha, "Our products are distributed worldwide through a network of channel partners and distributors and we have 32 sales offices connected to the headquarters' central database for sales management, delivery and collection. Hence 24/7 availability is essential to perform their daily task and deliver necessary reports," he said.

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He added that with thousands of transactions passing through its system on a daily basis, an unexpected disaster could result in a direct and damaging loss to the business. Krishidhan's system was available online only for data backup on a staggered basis. Fortunately, no disasters occurred in the three-plus years prior to implementing a more aggressive disaster recovery environment. "A disaster does not pick up the phone and call to tell us it is here. We need to be proactive," said Jha.

Solution

One year ago, Krishidhan's technical team began evaluating the potential disaster recovery and data replication tools available on the IBM platform. Having a close relationship with IBM limited its choice of disaster recovery and data replication tools, but Krishidhan based its criteria on reliability, availability and security.

Having High Availability Clusters Multiprocessing (HACMP) on IBM's AIX platform proved an added benefit. "We were satisfied with HACMP solution for local high availability but felt vulnerable to site related issues. Plugging Double-Take RecoverNow into the HACMP cluster ensured that users would enjoy uninterrupted access to data locally and remotely in a protected environment," he added.

"Double-Take RecoverNow for AIX was our choice as it offered the simultaneous ability to retrieve and replicate data in case of a disaster without going offline. And it was easy to use," said Jha. Krishidhan worked with Vision Solutions' partners, Avnet Technology Solutions to deploy Double-Take RecoverNow for AIX; and Trimax IT Infrastructure & Services, Ltd. to host the servers.

"Double-Take RecoverNow proved to be a reliable, cost efficient and user friendly choice. Furthermore, we were able to gain a competitive Recovery Point Objective (RPO) and Recovery Time Objective (RTO) in comparison to the previous 12 hours to 12 weeks depending on the kind of disaster." Jha added that Krishidhan met its File Systems-level backup requirement with the new RTO of between three and five hours by implementing Double-Take RecoverNow.

Moreover, the HACMP cluster on the production server also guaranteed NSPOF at the hardware level.

"As a user of Double-Take RecoverNow for AIX, we are very pleased with the almost real-time data protection and disaster recovery capability that it has given our organization. We are very satisfied with its performance," said Jha, The integration of Double-Take RecoverNow within Krishidhan's IT infrastructure also secured the mission critical systems and improved the company's overall disaster recovery strategy.

"The partnership between Vision Solutions as the supplier, Avnet as the executor, Trimax as the host and Krishidhan as user, demonstrated an excellent example of teamwork for a successful implementation," concluded Jha.

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