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Dean Wilcox, IS Manager, Mack Energy

Business Profile

Company Name:
Mack Energy Corp.

Headquarters:
Artesia, New Mexico

Industry:
Oil and gas production

Founded:
1988

Business Environment:

- Operates as an independent energy company engaged in oil and gas exploration, development and production.
- Employs more than 900 people.
- Maintains satellite offices in Roswell, New Mexico, Midland and Ft. Worth, Texas.
- Operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Vision Solutions Product:
Double-Take Availability

Implementation Partner:
PC Connection and Vision Solutions

Critical issue

Protecting assets like data and having a backup plan in place is regarded as good corporate stewardship at Mack Energy. With adequate storage and bandwidth in place, Mack Energy needed a solid Disaster Recovery component.

Results

- The implementation of powerful DR technology was simplified through the use of professional services from Vision Solutions.
- Email, accounting data, GIS data and other files are completely protected.
- Planned and unplanned downtime was virtually eliminated.

Technologies

- Double-Take Availability
- Microsoft Windows
- Microsoft Exchange 2003 Server
- MS SQL Server
- IBM® xSeries® 346, 360 and 230
- IBM TotalStorage® DS400 SAN storage array
- Fibre Channel DS400 storage needs

Business Challenge

Even though continuous access to data is not an absolute necessity at Mack Energy, the company realizes the importance of protecting its data and having a backup plan in place should a disaster strike. In addition to its main office, the company operates a second location where backup data is stored.

Mack Energy has IBM® xSeries® 346, xSeries 360 and xSeries 230 servers running Microsoft® Exchange and SQL in addition to data file storage. It was a natural extension for Mack Energy to turn to IBM to solve their storage area network (SAN) needs for disaster recovery. After reviewing their requirements with PC Connection, an IBM Business Partner, the decision was made to purchase an IBM TotalStorage® DS400 SAN storage array. The Fibre Channel DS400 provided the best value proposition for Mack Energy's entry storage needs, with scalability to 12TB1 of total storage capacity. Mack Energy intended on using the SAN and the fiber connecting its two locations to replicate data for offsite storage and disaster recovery purposes. However, the solution still required a disaster recovery piece.



Solution

After consulting with IBM and PC Connection, and receiving a recommendation of Double-Take Availability from Vision Solutions for real-time replication of its data, Dean Wilcox, Mack Energy IS Manager, agreed to look at Vision Solutions' high availability offering.

Vision Solutions held two conference calls - the first to provide a remote demonstration, followed by a call to introduce references from IBM and other Double-Take Availability customers. After initial discussions, Wilcox determined he had found the right solution for Mack Energy. PC Connection proposed the architecture design and facilitated the sale, and Double-Take Availability provided on-site support to deploy the solution.

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With Double-Take Availability, Mack dramatically minimized, or even eliminated planned and unplanned downtime. The solution from IBM and Vision Solutions effectively protects Microsoft Exchange 2003, accounting programs running on SQL, geographical information systems, and data files.



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◆ High Availability ◆ Disaster Recovery ◆ Systems and Data Management ◆