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Kevin Hartigan, MIS Manager, McWilliams Forge Company

Business Profile

Company Name:
McWilliams Forge Company

Headquarters:
Rockaway, New Jersey

Industry:
Manufacturing for Aerospace

Founded:
1880

Business Environment:

- Manufacturers aerospace forgings and other precision components.
- Supplies components to the aircraft manufacturing industry around the world.
- Employs approximately 130 people.
- Conducts business 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Vision Solutions Product:
Double-Take Availability

Implementation Partner:
IT Resolution and Vision Solutions

Critical issue

McWilliams Forge relied on tape backup for business continuity. A severe production server failure resulted in a recovery effort that took 40 hours. A post recovery assessment concluded that restoring access to applications and data was overly expensive, time consuming and challenging.

Results

- Helped the company recover from a server failure before it was completely installed and tested.
- Dramatically reduced the potential for data loss.
- Protects their ERP and document management systems and virtually eliminates planned and unplanned downtime.

Technologies

- Double-Take Availability
- Microsoft Windows
- Microsoft Exchange Server
- MS SQL Server
- A comprehensive suite of ERP components

Business Challenge

McWilliams Forge Company provides aerospace forgings and other precision components to the aircraft manufacturing industry around the world. McWilliams Forge relied heavily on tape backup for business continuity. The catalyst for finding a better way to protect and recover their data came after having a severe production server crash. To recover, the McWilliams Forge team spent more than 40 hours rebuilding the system. Though it worked, the recovery process was incredibly expensive, time consuming, and challenging for the team.

As a result, McWilliams Forge recognized the need to provide an enhanced disaster recovery solution as well as 24x7 application availability for business continuity. With the need to protect a new document management system and their SQL-based ERP suite, McWilliams Forge Company required a solution that:

- Was reliable and cost effective
- Was compatible with their existing clustered server system environment
- Provided failover capabilities for reducing down-time
- Enhanced their disaster recovery and business continuity plan
- Improved the recovery process



Solution

McWilliams Forge was introduced to Vision Solutions by their document manager business partner, InfiNet Business Systems. After doing a competitive analysis and evaluation of other products in the market, Double-Take-Availability from Vision Solutions was determined as the best fit.

McWilliams Forge initially rolled out Double-Take Availability on two production servers with the hopes of never needing to use the failover system. However, once the initial installs were completed they wanted to test the system so they selected a date for a planned disaster recovery event. Much to their surprise, a hardware failure led to an unplanned outage prior to the planned test. Luckily, they had Double-Take Availability which failed over within minutes.

"Double-Take Availability took this challenge like a pro," said Kevin Hartigan, MIS Manager, McWilliams Forge Company. "The system failed over within minutes, we had no data loss, and every user had full access to their system without the knowledge of the failed equipment. It showed exactly what we had hoped for."

Today, McWilliams Forge now has a full blown disaster recovery system. The technical site is broken into two parts; production and disaster recovery. These two sites are completely independent of one another and the four primary production servers are replicating in the Double-Take Availability world 24/7/365. The system was thriving so successfully with the help of their IT consulting firm, IT Resolution, that McWilliams Forge quickly expanded to add the Exchange email and payroll systems under Double-Take Availability's protection.

"We believe the use of Double-Take ensures complete business integrity of our primary production equipment," said Hartigan. "We learned from our first disaster that this was needed business-wide and we will continue this mindset as we grow. Besides, who else has had a disaster recovery site fully functional with the ability to save data before the final testing was complete?"

Vision Solutions' products and services enable customers to protect and recover business-critical data and applications to support disaster recovery, high availability and centralized backup. Double-Take Availability utilizes patented real-time replication technology that captures byte-level changes as they happen and replicates those changes to one or more target servers at any location, locally or at a recovery site miles away. With the continuous data replication and built-in failover capabilities within Double-Take Availability, McWilliams Forge's business can now be back online within minutes with no data loss.



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High Availability Disaster Recovery Systems and Data Management