TraderTools
The eFXperts

"With Double-Take Availability we can protect our customers across an ocean in real-time, without any hardware or software limitations."

Yariv Hazan, IT manager, TraderTools

Business Profile

Company Name:
TraderTools Inc.

Headquarters:
Corporate: New York, NY, USA
R&D: Ra'anana, Israel

Industry:
FX trading platform

Business Size:
Founded in 1997, TraderTools has evolved into a SAAS FX Technology company. The company's management team possesses a total of more than 100 years of experience in financial markets and software development.

TraderTools' foreign exchange (FX) trading platform is the product of more than a decade's worth of experience with some of the world's largest financial institutions. It allows customers to increase FX revenues, reduce FX costs, improve FX spreads, and access vital information to help run their FX businesses more efficiently and effectively.

Business Environment:
• Provides a platform for FX trading.
• Uses multiple virtual machines for every customer.
• Downtime is very disruptive and expensive.

Implementation Team:
Singular and TraderTools

Critical issue

To say the least, foreign exchange (FX) trading is fast-paced. Fortunes can be made or lost in minutes, if not seconds. Clearly, FX traders have no time for downtime on the systems that manage their trading.

TraderTools operates at the core of this exacting environment. Its next-generation Liquidity Management Platform combines foreign exchange (FX) pricing, dealing, order management and execution in a single solution. Keeping this critical platform functioning requires multiple servers for every customer. Downtime on these servers is unacceptable.

Results

• Replicates data in real-time across the Atlantic.
• Supports numerous virtual servers.
• Compresses data to minimize latency.
• Easy to install, monitor and manage.

Technologies

Software:
• Double-Take Availability
• Microsoft Windows Server 2008
• VMware
• TraderTools' Liquidity Management Platform
Hardware:
• HP and Dell servers

Business Challenge

TraderTools delivers an integrated platform for monitoring, managing, administering and pricing FX orders. The platform runs multiple virtual servers for each customer. The primary servers, which are managed by TraderTools, are located in the company's London-based facilities in the United Kingdom, and in the US

FX trading occurs around the clock. And prices can change in an instant. Consequently, TraderTools' customers require non-stop availability of their trading platform. Hardware, software and databases require regular maintenance. Furthermore, you should always expect the unexpected. Fires, floods, earthquakes and other natural disasters can occur with little or no warning. And while one doesn't like to think about it, terrorism has to factor into the company's risk assessment. TraderTools' corporate and European headquarters are located in New York and London, respectively. Both of these cities have been subject to terrorist attacks in the past.

Due to these business pressures and challenges, TraderTools needed to find a reliable disaster recovery and high availability solution that would meet the company's recovery point objective (RPO) of virtually zero lost data and its recover time objective (RTO) of minimal downtime, no matter what might occur.

VISION®
SOLUTIONS

Double-Take® AVAILABILITY™

visionsolutions.com

Solution

The company's existing offices in New York and London presented an obvious option for providing reliable high availability and disaster recovery. By replicating all of the data from London to New York and vice versa, the company would always have an up-to-date server ready to run if a planned or unplanned event shut down either data center.

If a disaster strikes one data center, the other is far enough away—on the other side of the Atlantic—to be spared the effects. Because the servers in the two data centers are always synchronized, this delivers the ultimate in disaster recovery. Even under the worst of circumstances, the backup data center can immediately assume operational responsibilities with virtually no lost data or downtime.

At first, TraderTools tried to implement this solution using native VMware replication. However, this approach presented two problems. First, the transatlantic link frequently disconnected, forcing the replication processes to restart. Second, even when the replication processes completed before a disconnect occurred, long distances coupled with the bandwidth congestion that resulted from replicating high volumes of data meant that data latency times between London and New York were unacceptably high.

TraderTools overcame these problems with Double-Take Availability. Because Double-Take Availability efficiently compresses data before replicating it, the initial replication of the TraderTools' database took only a few hours. Now, ongoing updates are replicated across the Atlantic in near real-time. As a result, data latency is minimal and communication disconnects have little impact on the replication processes.

TraderTools will add multiple servers to the London or NY data cente for every new On Demand Customer The company has already decided that all of these new servers will also be protected with Double-Take Availability.

Double-Take Availability installation, management and monitoring is simple, quick and trouble-free. Trader-Tools received support from Singular, an Israeli Vision Solutions business partner, to complete the initial installation. However, when it adds more customers, TraderTools wants to install Double-Take Availability itself. To facilitate this, Erez Paz, a technical specialist with Singular, wrote a brief manual explaining how to do it. With this manual and only two hours of guidance, TraderTools is now in a position to install, monitor and administer Double-Take Availability on its own. It really is that easy.

Microsoft Partner
Gold Independent Software Vendor (ISV)

15300 Barranca Parkway, Irvine, CA 92618
1-800-957-4511   1-801-799-0300   visionsolutions.com

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