

Accessor CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

"With Double-Take Availability, we have the assurance of data integrity, and a smooth, rapid transition to back up if the primary server is down. The combination of Data Recovery and High Availability is a huge cost-savings for us."

Shawn Huey, Systems Engineer, Accessor Capital Management LP

Business Profile

Company Name:
Accessor Capital Management LP

Headquarters:
Seattle, Washington

Industry:
Finance

Business Environment:
• Capital management firm offering diversified no load mutual funds
• Employee owned
• Operates regional offices

Vision Solutions Product:
Double-Take® Availability

Implementation Partner:
Vision Solutions

Critical issue

New SEC regulations required financial institutions to maintain a high level of system integrity and accessibility. A continuous, automatic, offsite disaster recovery topography would ensure limited or no downtime, facilitate compliance with federal regulations and improve customer service.

Results

- Continuous and immediate off-site data protection
- Efficient use of resources including network bandwidth and CPU
- Improved data availability
- Easy to use, remote management and monitoring
- Implementation effort handled by Double-Take Software professionals
- Facilitates compliance with SEC regulations

Technologies

- Double-Take Availability
- Multiple local and remote PC servers
- Microsoft Windows

Business Challenge

Accessor Capital Management LP wanted a disaster recovery plan that would enable them to recapture data and resume operation without hesitation in case its primary data center became unavailable. They had one overarching criteria: they needed a backup of their data in a different geographic location for maximum protection and data had to be protected off-site automatically, continuously and nearly immediately.

Accessor Capital also had other issues to deal with like new SEC regulations that require that investment institutions protect data and assure soundness of client transactions and funds, and have the technological capability to recover from disasters and do business without interruption. Consistent with its reputation for exceptional technology and support services, Accessor Capital met SEC requirements well ahead of schedule.

To do this, the company considered several alternatives. Big recovery companies offered 'hot sites' that required leasing floor space for recovery equipment. The problem: lost time and lost data. Other vendors required access to the firm's information. Accessor was unwilling either to share confidential client data or to pay the prohibitive costs.

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Solution

Ultimately, Accessor Capital licensed Double-Take Availability from Vision Solutions. Double-Take Availability allows a secondary server to stand in automatically for the primary server so operations resume with minimal interruption. Accessor Capital chose to house a backup server within a 45-minute drive of its Seattle office, which is close enough for staff to reach it easily, but far enough to assure adequate protection of data and operations.

To meet stringent SEC requirements, Accessor Capital had to be efficient in selecting a comprehensive continuous data availability and seamless failover solution. Accessor wanted to protect data integrity and transaction capability if its primary server went down.

“We’ve always had tape back up,” said Shawn Huey, Systems Engineer. “But tapes don’t run continuously, so they can’t provide up-to-the-minute data. In addition, restoring from tape is an uncertain and time-consuming task. With Double-Take Availability we have complete information and rapid recovery.”

Double-Take Availability monitors changes to open files as they occur and replicates only the modifications. Replication occurs in the background, in real time. Because the main server continues processing at full capacity, users notice no interruption. The result is maximum protection from data loss and unimpeded flow of operations.

“An outage could be very costly,” said Huey “but with Double-Take Availability, it’s no longer a significant problem and we can assure our clients of continued quality service.”

Double-Take Availability goes beyond data replication, enabling Accessor Capital Management to have 99.99% system availability. Failover is efficient and transparent. The result is High Availability—less than fifty minutes of down time a year. System users continue working without any awareness that failover occurred.

“We’re redesigning our network architecture yet we can continue to operate without interruption,” said Huey. “Without Double-Take Availability, there would be extra work, server downtime, and some risk to data while we migrate. Double-Take Availability supports migration to the new platform at minimal cost and minimal risk.”

“Another especially useful feature is the capability for manual intervention. If there’s a brief interruption, like the email server going down for periodic maintenance, instead of failing over, we can just click to continue,” Huey adds.

Double-Take Availability also gave Accessor Capital a custom scripting feature to support failover and to manage replication to maximize processing capabilities.

Vision Solutions’ unique focus on and commitment to disaster recovery results in a product optimized for successful deployment and the ability to provide extraordinary service. Accessor took advantage of Vision’s professional services team to implement Double-Take Availability. Well ahead of the SEC deadline, Double-Take Availability was protecting Accessor data and assuring uninterrupted operation.

According to Huey, “Vision Solutions’ focus on disaster recovery and service is unique. It means a superior product and a distinct level of service and customer focus that just isn’t available from companies that split their attention. Double-Take availability isn’t the first solution we tried, but it is the final choice. With this level of service and quality of application, Accessor doesn’t have to look further to be sure we continue to give our investors the best service.”



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 High Availability
  Disaster Recovery
  Systems and Data Management
 