



"It's a really great tool for restoring things that are accidentally deleted. It's also great for testing. If something goes wrong we can set the backup system to 10 minutes before and step it through to see what happens."

Bill Rossi, consultant to Mundi Westport

Business Profile

Company Name:
Mundi Westport Group

Headquarters:
Pine Brook, New Jersey, USA

Founded:
1996

Industry:
Leather goods manufacturer & distributor

Business Size:
With 125 full-time employees, and more during the busy season, Mundi Westport still describes itself as a small leather goods manufacturer and distributor. Small though it may be, you'll likely recognize some of the brands on the wallets, handbags, business bags, card cases and belts that it makes. They include, among others, Mundi, Kenneth Cole, Sag Harbor and Joseph Abboud. The company has grown considerably since its founding in 1969. Today, customers purchase more than 20 million Mundi Westport products annually from more than 30,000 points of sale.

Business Environment:

- Small leather goods manufacturer and distributor
- Needs to keep its systems running 24 x 7
- In the event of a disaster, needs to be able to recover data not on the previous night's backup tapes

Vision Solutions Product:
Double-Take RecoverNow

Implementation Team:
Vision Solutions
Mundi Westport

Critical issue

Mundi Westport's AIX-based systems operate around the clock. But what happens if something goes wrong with the production server? If the company depended only on nightly tape-based backups, recovery times would be unacceptable. What's more, recovery from tape would be incomplete. Any data updates applied during the day would not be on the previous night's backup and, therefore, might be lost.

In addition, tape-based backups are designed to recover data after a disaster. They do little or nothing to solve the much more frequent "oops moments" when someone accidentally deletes data or when a glitch corrupts data. Mundi Westport needed a way to solve these problems.

Results

- Can quickly switch to the real-time replica server if necessary
- Can recover data to any point in time
- Can rollback the replica server for problem-solving purposes
- Incurs little or no day-to-day administration burden

Technologies

- Double-Take RecoverNow
- AIX
- UniVerse database
- Custom-developed applications
- 2 x IBM Power 520 servers (one production, one backup)

Business Challenge

Mundi Westport sends the orders it receives to a warehouse where the necessary items are picked, scanned into the system and packed into boxes. The information collected during this process is used to bill customers and to track shipments. If Mundi Westport's systems are unavailable, the company cannot complete these activities.

Downtime is costly for the company. During the busy season, which lasts from July until Thanksgiving, the company typically ships 5,000 to 10,000 cartons a day. Last October alone, it packed more than 150,000 cartons.

Beyond the threat of downtime, the company must also protect its critical data. Like most companies, Mundi Westport performs nightly backups. However, if the company's online data were destroyed just before a new backup tape was to be created, a full day's worth of data could be lost because it would not yet be captured on any backup tape.

In addition to resolving this backup latency issue, the company also wanted a way to recover from the most frequent data problem—corrupted or accidentally deleted data. Neither online data nor nightly backup tapes provided much help because the ideal solution is to recover data to its state just before the problem occurred, which rarely coincided with the time when the last backup tape was created.



Solution

About five years ago, Mundi Westport looked at an option for overcoming these challenges. However, the product that the company evaluated was costly and more than what was needed. Furthermore, it would not allow them to recover data to any point in time during the day.

Almost a year ago, Mundi Westport found the solution it was looking for: Double-Take RecoverNow, from Vision Solutions. Double-Take RecoverNow replicates data in Mundi Westport's post-relational UniVerse database on a production AIX-based server to a UniVerse database on a replica AIX server. Now, if there is a problem on the primary server, the company can quickly switchover to the backup server and continue operations with minimal disruption.

In addition to near real-time replication, Double-Take RecoverNow also provides Continuous Data Protection (CDP). CDP stores enough information on each data update such that Double-Take RecoverNow can restore data items to a specific point in time. This allows Mundi Westport to recover from mishaps that happen occasionally, such as data being corrupted or accidentally deleted.

Mundi Westport also uses the CDP feature to help in problem solving. If something goes wrong in one of its applications, IT staff can rollback the backup server to a point just before the problem occurred. They can then step through updates to track down the problem.

The company is also looking at gaining additional benefits from its Double-Take RecoverNow solution. On the last day of each month, Mundi Westport creates several month-end reports, a process that takes two to three hours. Currently, the company runs the reports after-hours and then rolls the system over to the next month so people can start work the next morning.

Mundi Westport is looking at ways to run the reports on the backup system during the day, without disrupting primary operations, so people will no longer have to stay late to run the month-end routines.

During the evaluation process, Mundi Westport worried that Double-Take RecoverNow might not be an appropriate solution for a small to medium-sized business like itself. But the company found it to be an excellent fit. "I think it's a good solution for anyone who wants to be confident that their data is backed up and safe and they can get at it on an as-needed basis," said Kathy Thomsen, MIS director at Mundi Westport.



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