



“Failover and recovery time has been reduced to minutes when previously it took a day to get systems up and running again. We have less stress, easier recovery, and a more robust network. Double-Take Availability is meeting all of our high availability and disaster recovery needs now and for the foreseeable future”.

Jeff Vella, Infrastructure Services Manager, Apparel Group Australia

Business Profile

Company Name:
Apparel Group Australia

Headquarters:
Sydney, Australia

Industry:
Clothing design and manufacturing

Employees:
900+

Business Environment:

- Apparel Group was founded in the 1950s
- Headquartered in Sydney, offices in Shanghai and Hong Kong
- Acquires textiles and accessories from around the world

Vision Solutions Product:
Double-Take® Availability

Critical issue

A requirement for continuous server availability and protection with various recovery options

Results

- Full recovery from a system failure often occurs in less than 30 minutes.
- Business transactions are replicated in near real-time.
- The HA and DR environments are unaffected by the daily application suite reboot
- Double-Take Availability is easy to monitor and maintain.

Technologies

- Double-Take Availability
- A network of two physical, and five virtual production Microsoft Windows-based servers
- SAP Exchange Infrastructure EAI software
- Oracle-based ERP
- Remote site backup

Business Challenge

Apparel Group uses application servers across its operations. It relies on this network backbone to facilitate communications, tasks, and business needs. In addition to its manufacturing management, these servers assist in tracking inventory levels and meeting changing retail demands. These servers are critical to the business and require a high level of up time to meet stringent business objectives mainly, a low recovery point objective (RPO) and recovery time objective (RTO).

The data recovery solution they had relied on required a reboot after every daily business cycle. If data replication to the backup server was not complete before the scheduled reboot, background file replication had to start from scratch and business operations were vulnerable.

Following a detailed analysis of the problem, it was clear that the recovery application could not keep up with changes on the Apparel Group network, which featured highly transactional based apps including SQL, SAP Exchange Infrastructure, and an ERP system running on Oracle.

The recovery application they had originally deployed was using a ‘point in time’ snapshot technology, which was not suited to the Apparel Group’s transactional based application workloads. “Apparel Group uses a network comprising two physical, and five virtual production servers replicating to a data recovery site one-to-one,” he said.



Solution

Following a comparative review, the Apparel Group turned to Double-Take Availability, which could replicate and keep highly available application servers over an existing link.

Double-Take Availability conducts real-time, full-server replication, which mirrors the operating system, application suite and data files to another server, allowing the user to effectively recover data on demand in the case of a server failure or data loss. Double-Take Availability enables all system users to be back up and running in about 30 minutes and less in many cases.

The outcome of full data recovery tests for the Exchange and SQL servers has been quite satisfactory. Apparel Group technicians failed over their production servers to their remote DR site and then failed back to production with complete control.

According to Jeff Vella, Infrastructure Services Manager, "Double-Take Availability works well. It does what it is supposed to do - protects our application servers in real time and it is easy to deploy, maintain and carry out the all important DR tests. We have found Double-Take Availability's on-going operating costs to be low."

He adds that the company now had a complete DR Plan and uptime solution in place to protect its critical servers and save time. "Failover and recovery time has been reduced to minutes when previously it took a day to get systems up and running again," he said.

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