

OCEAN REEF

SUCCESS STORY

Exclusive Members-Only Club Selects Overland's REO and NEO Disk-to-Disk-to-Tape Combination

CHALLENGES

- ▶ *Complex backup and recovery process with elaborate tape rotation scheme*
- ▶ *Recovery from off-site tapes could have taken days*
- ▶ *Thirty hour backup window exceeded disaster preparedness objectives*

THE SOLUTION

*REO 4000 and NEO 2000
VERITAS Backup Exec*

BENEFITS

- ▶ *Fast, reliable backups within shorter backup window*
- ▶ *Virtually instantaneous data recovery*
- ▶ *Simple, easy-to-manage backup and recovery process*
- ▶ *Easily meets disaster recovery objectives*
- ▶ *Three weeks of data retained on REO for fast recovery*
- ▶ *D2D2T configuration to enhance speed and reliability while reducing costs*

RESELLER

*Digital Data Solutions,
www.digitaldata.cc*

Located on the northernmost tip of the Island of Key Largo, fifty miles south of Miami, Ocean Reef Club is an exclusive private club in terms of amenities as well as location. Designed to meet every possible need of its highly affluent members, Ocean Reef Club boasts a jet airport, a yacht marina, two golf courses and more than ten restaurants. The club-community includes some 1,500 private homes and condominiums, of which 250 are rental units. It also offers lodging in a 142-unit oceanfront inn.

Supporting the club's nearly 5000 members requires a staff of 1100 employees during the peak season, which runs from Thanksgiving to Easter, and 650 employees the rest of the year. It also requires a state-of-the-art technology infrastructure with 35 servers, wireless and fiber optic connectivity, and a host of applications ranging from back office and property management systems to point-of-sale systems and restaurant management applications. These systems are managed by a full-time information technology staff of seven.

Jonathan Brinkman, Ocean Reef Club's director of information technology, describes Ocean Reef's technology approach as both cutting edge and conservative. "We continually research new, state-of-the-art technologies, but we only implement those that have proven

themselves in the real world. In fact, we constantly assess the risk/reward profile of any technology prior to making a buy decision. We simply can't afford to jeopardize our systems, applications or data."

THE CHALLENGE

In the past year, Ocean Reef's storage requirements reached 1 TB, with a projected increase of more than 10 percent per year. The volume of data strained the capabilities of its two-drive Exabyte tape library. Backing up its primary storage array alone took nearly 30 hours, and required an elaborate tape rotation scheme. "It was extremely complex, and our concerns about backup reliability were growing," recalls Brinkman. "Plus, we'd still face the issue of many hours or days to recover data."

As part of that analysis, Ocean Reef Club also examined its disaster recovery plans. "Ocean Reef's location in South Florida puts it at significant risk of being affected by a hurricane," says Brinkman. "We wanted the ability to do a complete backup in less than 24 hours in the event of an approaching hurricane —

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Jonathan Brinkman
IT Director, Ocean Reef Club



something we simply couldn't do with the Exabyte system."

Two additional factors compelled Ocean Reef Club to accelerate its search for a new system. First, the organization needed to replenish its supply of tapes—a \$10,000 proposition. Second, Exabyte issued an end-of-life notice for the tape drives. "We clearly recognized that it was time to upgrade to a more robust, reliable system," Brinkman says.

THE SOLUTION

Initially, the Ocean Reef team looked at upgrading to a newer tape library, but that approach did not address all of Ocean Reef's concerns. "Although a new library would shorten our backup window, it would not relieve our media costs, and we'd still need to implement and follow a tape rotation scheme," Brinkman says.

In conjunction with value-added reseller Digital Data, Brinkman and his team started looking at alternatives to tape-only backup, which included the Overland Storage REO 4000 disk-based backup and recovery appliance. "The REO 4000 was provocative," says Brinkman. "It provided instant recovery, as well as the ability to run multiple backup jobs at once. This capability meant that we could shorten our backup window and easily meet our 24-hour disaster preparedness objective."

In addition to enjoying the benefits of disk-based backup, the club wanted to ensure that data was securely stored long-term. To accomplish this, the team evaluated a complete disk-to-disk-to-tape (D2D2T) solution including the Overland Storage NEO 2000 tape library with a single LTO2 tape drive.

"We determined that a D2D2T solution would be a highly reliable, extremely efficient solution," explains Brinkman. "It would provide two copies of our backup for extra protection, lessen the impact on our network, and allow us to meet our backup and recovery time objectives. It was really a no-brainer."

Although Ocean Reef Club evaluated solutions from other vendors, Brinkman was drawn to the Overland products from the start. "Overland is a well-known company with a solid reputation," he said. "I'm continually reading about their products, and I feel confident in their quality."

THE BENEFITS

In early 2005, Ocean Reef Club implemented the REO 4000 and NEO 2000 in a D2D2T configuration, and the results have exceeded expectations. "We can keep three weeks of data on the REO, which means we can instantly restore the vast majority of the files we need. This 'recovery on demand' capability is a huge plus for us," says Brinkman.

Brinkman also praises the REO's ability to run multiple backup jobs at once. "Our backup window is two to three times shorter than we were able to achieve with our tape-only solution," he says. "This more than meets our disaster preparedness objectives, while easing the administrative burden of managing long backups."

"The D2D2T configuration brings its own set of benefits," Brinkman continued. "Because the data moves from the REO virtual tape to the NEO physical tape during off-peak hours, there's no impact to our network performance. It also eliminates the tape drive 'shoeshining' associated with direct-to-tape backup, which reduces wear on the tape drive. Finally, it enables us to use media more efficiently, which in turn reduces our tape costs."

"The REO/NEO combination has proven itself to be an efficient, reliable and elegant way to protect our critical data," Brinkman concludes. "This is backup and recovery the way it should be." ○



About Overland Storage

For 25 years, Overland Storage has delivered world-class data protection solutions designed to ensure business continuity. Focused on backup and recovery, Overland's data protection solutions include the REO SERIES™ family of disk-based backup and recovery appliances and the award-

winning NEO SERIES™ of tape libraries. Overland sells its products worldwide through leading OEMs, commercial distributors, storage integrators and value-added resellers. For more information, visit Overland's web site at www.overlandstorage.com.

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