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Success Story

HAGGAR CLOTHING

Apparel Manufacturer Irons Out Wrinkles in Data Backup and Recovery With Overland's REO™-NEO™ Disk-to-Tape Solution

Challenges

- End-of-life tape backup system had become unreliable and error prone.
- Small IT staff was overburdened with administrative duties in order to complete backups and restores.
- The ability to successfully provide restores was spotty or took hours.

The Solution

NEO™ 2000, REO™ 9000

Benefits

- Twice as much data can be backed up daily without impacting production environment.
- Restores from tape are five times faster on Overland NEO.
- Administrative chores have been reduced by 40 percent.
- NEO-REO work seamlessly to provide reliable disk-to-disk-to-tape data protection

Reseller

Dallas Digital Services, LLC
www.ddserv.com

Haggar Clothing Co. has a long history of innovation in the apparel industry, coining the term "slacks" in the 1940s and later inventing "wrinkle-free cotton" khaki pants. Today, the multi-million dollar apparel leader offers a full line of casual and dress clothing for men as well as sportswear for women. Headquartered in Dallas, Haggar employs approximately 1,500 people and operates 80 retail locations nationwide, and markets its products in Canada, Mexico and the United Kingdom.

"With Overland's flexible, scalable and reliable REO/NEO combination, we now have the confidence our data is protected and we can deliver what our users expect—even as the years go on."

Brad Coleman
Director of IT Infrastructure, Haggar Clothing Co.

Haggar's small yet focused IT staff "wears many hats" in supporting the company's production and development environments. "We strive to keep up with the best technology solutions that enable us to take care of our business more efficiently," says Brad Coleman, director of IT infrastructure. Toward that goal, three network administrators oversee 45 HP Windows-based servers with DASD storage, 550 workstations, Cisco network infrastructure, an IBM AS/400 running an essential ERP application, an iSCSI Storage Area Network (SAN) and a total of 7 TBs of business-critical storage.

The Challenge

While Haggar's storage grew steadily by about 15 percent annually, the company experienced sudden spikes in backup and recovery requirements as a result of increasing reliance on sophisticated computer-aided design and graphics-intensive applications. Backups could grow ten-fold if clothing designers moved many large files onto the network. Since a single design file could be as large as 300 MB, it became harder to accommodate unpredictable surges and still meet backup windows.

Ever-expanding data volumes burdened the company's aged Exabyte X80 tape library, which became plagued with frequent failures and constant performance problems. "Our backups became hit or miss, making it exceedingly difficult to successfully complete a mix of four-to-six incremental and full backups each day," explains Don Beal, senior network administrator. "Restoring files was equally challenging—it took too long to locate the right tape and then we were lucky if the backup was complete."

As confidence waned in the older system, Haggar sought a reliable replacement to ease the administrative pressure on the resource-constrained IT team. "Enterprise backups are much too critical for us to risk major failures, so we decided to 'fast track' our evaluation of newer, higher capacity and more reliable tape solutions," adds Ted Reiner, network administration manager.

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The Solution

In September 2005, the team reviewed tape libraries from Exabyte, HP, Overland, Quantum and IBM. Early on, Coleman decided to follow up on a year-old suggestion from Rick Essex at value-added reseller Dallas Digital Services to consider the advantages of disk-to-disk-to-tape (D2D2T) technologies.

"We did a lot of searching on the Internet, looking for disk-to-tape solutions and newer LTO drive technologies that would produce the best bang for the buck," recalls Coleman. When Haggar revisited its tape library contenders to review their disk-based counterparts, Dallas Digital's Essex spoke out in favor of Overland's REO 9000, a flexible, high-capacity disk-based backup appliance.

Eventually, the team boiled down their choices to HP and Overland. They weighed each disk-to-tape solution against selection criteria, including ease of use, capacity, expansion capabilities and price. In the case of Overland, the team visited nearby customer Hunt Petroleum for a real-world perspective of the REO and NEO in operation. Favorable reports were bolstered by an impressive reduction in the firm's backup windows as well as significant cost savings through improved storage management and lowered administrative overhead. "The REO-NEO combo is the best fit for our organization as we wanted a solution we could grow with," Coleman says.

In November 2005, Haggar purchased an Overland REO 9000 disk backup and recovery appliance as well as a NEO 2000 tape library for seamless D2D2T data protection. With installation provided by Dallas Digital, Haggar's REO-NEO disk-to-tape combination was up and running in four

hours while immediately delivering "slick and fast" backup and recovery, according to IT staffers.

The Benefits

The additional speed and capacity of the REO 9000, which provides 9.6 TB of raw capacity, gives Haggar ample room to grow while slashing backup times. As a result, the team now handles up to 14 full and incremental backups daily without worries about sudden surges that take place when graphics-intensive clothing designs are moved onto the network. "We are backing up twice as much data and still can easily accommodate fluctuating file sizes," says Beal. "Previously, we had no way to prepare for this reality. Now, we can handle whatever's thrown at us."

With REO 9000 in place, Haggar backs up data to disk without concern for impacting network performance. Once data is stored on the REO, the team offloads it to the NEO 2000 for long-term archiving. "We can move our backups to tape in about 12 minutes," adds Reiner.

The Haggar team also appreciates the flexibility to configure the REO as a virtual tape library. By setting up the REO as a VTL, the team can easily emulate a NEO 2000 tape library for storing up to 30 days of backups on disk. "Using the REO as a VTL allows us to accommodate our expanding requirements while retaining backups on disk longer without having to allocate additional backup resources," says Beal.

Another REO plus is easy integration into Haggar's existing Ethernet environment as the device connects directly to its iSCSI SAN. The team is equally

pleased with the ease of use and performance on its Overland NEO 2000 tape library. "Restores are five times faster, but what's more important is that we now have an elevated level of confidence we can deliver any file a user may need because our data is intact" says Beal.

Thanks to streamlined operation of its Overland REO-NEO D2D2T combination, Haggar has lowered administrative overhead by 40 percent. "The ability to quickly, easily and repeatedly back up business-critical files is one of the most important tasks we undertake," concludes Coleman. "With Overland's flexible, scalable and reliable REO-NEO combination, we now have the confidence our data is protected and we can deliver what our users expect-even as the years go on."

About Overland Storage

Now in its 25th year, Overland Storage is a market leader and innovative provider of simply protected storage solutions – smart data protection appliances and software modules designed to work together, affordably, to ensure that information is automatically safe, readily available and always there. Overland's award-winning data protection solutions include the ULTIMUS SERIES™ of protected primary storage appliances; the REO SERIES™ of disk-based backup and recovery appliances; and the NEO SERIES® of tape libraries. Overland sells its products 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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