



EASYGROUP

SUCCESS STORY

For London business incubator, disk-based REO 4000™ reduces backup window from three days to just eight hours

BACKGROUND

Founded by serial entrepreneur Stelios Haji-loannou, easyGroup was formed in 1998 as a holding company to explore new ventures to extend the "easy" brand and capitalize upon the expanding use of the Internet. easyGroup is the umbrella company for a number of ventures including the flagship easyJet, a low-cost, "no frills," point-to-point airline that was the first of its kind in the European airline industry. The group has a number of other businesses including easyCar, easyHotel and easyTelecom.

CHALLENGE

easyGroup is a rapidly expanding organization that uses the Internet and information technology to reduce operating costs and, in turn, create new businesses that offer customers value. From its London headquarters, the group processes significant volumes of electronic transactions worldwide, from car rentals to cinema tickets.

Because of the rapid growth of its business, easyGroup has seen a corresponding rise in data that needs to be backed up. This need could grow even further as new legislation regarding financial reporting and auditing come into effect.

Data backup that had started as a simple overnight process when the group was launched in 1998, was starting to require an entire weekend. For Alex Atirene, Head of IT Infrastructure at easyGroup, this was unacceptable.

"Our old backup procedure would start on a Friday and not be complete until early Monday morning and the fear was that it may start to impact on our working week."

"We are a constantly expanding group and the volume of data that we need to process and keep archived is starting to approach 2 TB, which is a comfortable amount for our tape library to handle, but the time taken to backup this data needed to be made much shorter," Atirene added.

easyGroup had already invested in a strong tape backup solution that could easily cope with the increased data volume, so Atirene approached a number of suppliers for a potential solution that would not only allow him to maintain the group's existing infrastructure but also reduce the backup window.

After discussions with a number of vendors and suppliers, the Overland Storage REO 4000 was deemed to be the best fit for easyGroup.

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*-Alex Atirene
IT Infrastructure
easyGroup*



The Overland Storage REO 4000 is the highest-performing disk-based backup and recovery appliance on the market. The REO 4000 is a shared storage resource that delivers RAID 5 data protection and logical disk volume management, and it can appear as either disk or virtual LTO-2 tape (or both) to servers. The REO 4000 works seamlessly within departments, workgroups, SANs or remote locations to cost effectively protect critical data using existing backup software.

SOLUTION

easyGroup, having already decided to upgrade its internal network to Gigabit speeds, placed the REO 4000 in front of the server banks to act as a backup manager in conjunction with Symantec V2i software.

At the start of 2004, easyGroup installed the REO 4000 as the core of its backup solution. easyGroup choose to deploy the REO 4000 in an iSCSI configuration that allows minimal changes to the network and little additional costs. In this configuration, The REO 4000 now takes data simultaneously from six servers. The data is then stored on the REO's 4 TB internal capacity before offloading the data to an automated library for archiving to tape.

RESULTS

Atirene said easyGroup is extremely pleased with the REO 4000. "We have reduced our backup window from three days to just eight hours, which now means we can do daily as opposed to weekly backups. The new solution also allows us to test our data backup integrity without having to take servers offline and restoring data now takes under five minutes where it used to take up to four hours."

Atirene is now working on a self service tool that will allow department managers to restore lost data from backup without intervention from the IT department which will improve operation efficiency within the group.

"Overall, we are pleased the Overland REO 4000," he said. "It delivered what it promised and we have had no operation issues with it since its implementation. The improvements to our backup procedures are remarkable."

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-Alex Atirene
IT Infrastructure
easyGroup

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