Himatsingka Seide chooses disk for fast, reliable backup

Textile manufacturer picks HP StoreOnce to cut backup and restore times

Industry
Manufacturing

Objective
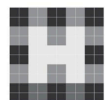Replace existing tape backup with reliable, fast disk-based solution

Approach
Reviewed possible vendor solutions, including evaluation of features and cost

IT matters
• Saved cost due to de-duplication ratio of 6:1, meaning six times less storage space is required

• Cuts time of monthly backup by more than 90 per cent, from two days to three hours, ensuring all backups are fully up to date

• Enabled replication of data via wide area network (WAN), rather than physically shipping tapes

Business matters
• Improved security of business-critical data, with backups needing to be kept for 30 years

• Reduced time to receive files restored from backup by more than 80 per cent, from 60 minutes to 10 minutes

Himatsingka

"We chose HP because of its de-duplication technology, which is better than competitors'. Other important factors were its good restoration time, its replication capabilities, and its competitive price."

– Ravi Prakash, assistant general manager IT, Himatsingka Seide

Disk backup provides excellent reliability and performance

Textile manufacturer Himatsingka Seide chose an HP StoreOnce disk backup solution for its business-critical data. The new solution is faster and more reliable than its previous tape backup, and allows replication across multiple sites. HP de-duplication technology enables more data to be stored, reducing the overall cost.

Challenge

Upgrade to global back-up
If you have ever bought bed linen or other home textiles, there's a good chance they've been made by Himatsingka Seide. Based in India, the company is a leader in the textile industry, manufacturing and selling product worldwide.

When Himatsingka Seide recently added a new infrastructure for SAP and ERP, it needed to upgrade its backup solution at three locations: its headquarters in Bangalore, and two factories which are respectively 40km and 180km away from the main site.

Previously, Himatsingka Seide was using DLT tape backup, but the backup window was too long for its new ERP infrastructure, and the company had reliability concerns. It also needed to move tapes between its three locations to provide disaster recovery, which was slow and required manual management.

Solution

De-duplication, restoration, replication
Himatsingka Seide evaluated solutions from vendors including HP and Quantum, and reviewed their features and costs. Following this process, it chose a disk backup solution based on HP StoreOnce.

"We chose HP because of its de-duplication technology, which is better than competitors'," says Ravi Prakash, assistant general manager IT at Himatsingka Seide. "Other important factors were its restoration time, replication capabilities and competitive price."

As well as its SAP and ERP systems, Himatsingka Seide uses the HP solution to back up its Exchange server, its Windows® environment and some CAD/CAM files. The backed-up applications are running primarily on HP UNIX servers.

"The HP solution backs up all of our financial data, the ERP database which is core to our manufacturing business and our emails, amongst other things," says Prakash. "I can't quantify the impact if we lost any data."

An HP StoreOnce D2D4106i Backup provides 12TB raw (9TB useable) storage in Bangalore, and at each of the other two locations an HP StoreOnce D2D4312i Backup provides 6TB raw (4TB useable). All three are managed centrally from the main site. Prakash comments, "HP gives more options for storage capacity than some competitors, which is helpful."

HP Technology Services provides support and integration services, including installation. Himatsingka Seide has a four-year 24x7 support contract with HP. HP's partner, Vertex Techno Solutions, provides first line support.

Benefits

Faster back-up, greater business security
"Compared to our previous tape backup, the biggest benefit is the guarantee that I can restore files," says Prakash. "We get a pro-active alert if a hard disk is about to fail - this happened recently and HP quickly replaced the disk, with no loss of data."

"We must keep backups for 30 years, and could be asked for any file from many years ago," continues Prakash. "Tape is prone to physical problems and it is difficult to control the storage environment. Disk does not have these issues."

The de-duplication features of HP StoreOnce mean that Himatsingka Seide can compress its backups, saving money. Himatsingka Seide achieves a de-duplication ratio of typically 6:1, meaning it can compress 18TB of data from one site into only 3TB.

The StoreOnce Backup is typically three times quicker than competing systems and far faster than Himatsingka Seide's previous tape backup systems, which shortens the backup window.

"Our monthly backup used to take two days, where now it is three hours," says Prakash. "Previously any changes made to files during those two days were vulnerable, as they were not on the latest backup - now we can be sure we are backing up fully up to date files."

Restoration time is also faster, as Prakash explains: "To retrieve a file used to take one hour, including having to figure out where the right tape was - now the whole incident process from receiving a request to getting the file back takes only 10 minutes."

Customer solution at a glance

Hardware
- HP StoreOnce D2D4312i Backup
- HP StoreOnce D2D4106i Backup

Software
- HP StoreOnce Replication Manager

HP services
- Technology Services installation, implementation and support
- Four-year 24x7 support

At present, Himatsingka Seide is using the StoreOnce's built-in replication technology to replicate its most important files between the three sites over a wide area network (WAN), meaning there is no need to physically move tapes or disks between locations. The company is deploying HP StoreOnce Replication Manager software to make managing this process even easier.

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– Ravi Prakash, assistant general manager IT, Himatsingka Seide

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