

BAE SYSTEMS

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Chuck Berninger
Director of IT Operations
BAE Systems

BAE Systems Overview

Defense and aerospace systems.

Backup Application

BrightStor ArcServ

Key Benefits

- 50 percent reduction in backup times
- Leveraged investment in tapes
- Enabled scaling of performance and capacity as needed

BAE Systems Discovers the Virtual Tape Advantage

BAE Systems is a global leader in the development, delivery and support of advanced defense and aerospace systems. BAE Systems technology and expertise are driving advances in the air, on land, at sea, and in space—from leading-edge radar and avionics to next-generation solutions for the "digitized battlespace" of the 21st century. With operations across five continents, customers in 130 countries and more than 90,000 employees, BAE Systems is truly a world-class provider of technology solutions.

As a prime contractor to the U.S. federal government, BAE Systems puts data protection high on its list of IT priorities. To protect data at its Herndon, Virginia, data center, the company had relied on traditional tape library systems. The data center performed nightly full backups to four tape libraries, totaling 16 tape drives and 120 available tape slots, storing the tapes offsite.

Over time, however, the tape libraries became increasingly unreliable, according to Chuck Berninger, Director of IT Operations for the Herndon data center. "As our backup needs grew, we found that the number of tape failures was just becoming unbelievable," he says. "Every night we had two or three backups that didn't complete properly because of a tape error or tape library problem. It just wasn't working for us anymore."

The Solution

Berninger read an article in an industry publication on SEPATON's breakthrough virtual tape library (VTL) solutions. "I was intrigued by the VTL concept. This was exactly what we were looking for," Berninger recalls, noting that he contacted SEPATON and dispatched his lead backup technician

for a firsthand demonstration of the SEPATON S2100® VTL. "He was very impressed with the quality and performance of the S2100," Berninger says. "It's well-tested technology in a well-designed package."

A key advantage of the SEPATON S2100, Berninger says, was the ability to continue using his existing backup software, BrightStor ArcServe, with no change in backup routine. Berninger concluded that the S2100 offered a solution for trouble-free overnight backups. He could then use the tape library to produce auxiliary copies for offsite storage at leisure during the daytime, when staff would be on hand to address any problems. "With our backup safely on the S2100, we would be protected," he says.

The Implementation

Installation of the S2100-ES went without a hitch, Berninger says, noting the unit was up and performing backups within a day. Berninger says the flexibility of the S2100 enabled him easily to configure the 14TB unit into 100 virtual tapes of 100GB each. "It's a very well-engineered product. The S2100 integrated right into our existing environment and we just

Customer Case Study

started migrating backup jobs over to it," he says, noting that he took a cautious approach, migrating less critical systems first. "Within a few days, we saw that the S2100 was working beautifully, so we proceeded with wholesale migration."

Berninger says a key advantage of the S2100 was what didn't change. "The ArcServe backup software sees the S2100 as a normal tape library. You set up backup jobs just as if you were writing to tape, so there's no change in process," he says. "That's important because we have a lean staff; training time is hard to come by." Even more important, overnight backups now finish properly. Berninger says the data center has not experienced any failures since installing the S2100. "That's behind us now," he says.

The Results

Long backup times are also a thing of the past. Berninger reports a 50% decrease in backup windows with the S2100. He says scheduled restores have shown even greater acceleration. In addition to eliminating middle-of-the-night pager calls, Berninger says the SEPATON S2100 has made BAE's Herndon data center more efficient.

"We're no longer wasting time troubleshooting tape issues. Now we can focus on getting the job done," he says. "The technicians responsible for our backups also have other things to do—they can't be bogged down chasing down tape problems. Everything's moving a lot smoother now." Berninger says he was so pleased with the performance and reliability of the S2100 that he installed a second one several months later. "Our data requirements continue to grow and I need to stay ahead of them," Berninger says. "As our backup needs grow in the future, we'll be calling SEPATON."

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