DX*i*-Series & Scalar Series

DXi and Scalar Solutions Provide Comprehensive Data Protection for *The West Australian* Newspaper

Challenged to protect more and more data with an aging backup solution, *The West Australian* newspaper wanted a faster, more reliable system. The newspaper installed a Quantum DXi disk-based deduplication appliance and Scalar tape library to reduce backup time, keep a month of backups on disk for immediate restores, and lower its storage costs.

LENGTHY BACKUP WINDOW A PROBLEM
First published in 1833, *The West Australian (WA News)* is the second-oldest continually produced metropolitan newspaper in Australia. Its bulk and local distributor network covers over 300,000 square kilometers, making it the biggest distribution network in the world.

Jamie Cowell, Team Leader Infrastructure Services–Server/Desktop, manages a team of nine people responsible for the newspaper's server, storage, and desktop infrastructure. Implicit with that kind of responsibility to the paper's staff and wide subscriber base is an expectation of near-zero downtime and zero data loss.

WA News' legacy system was unable to keep up with persistent data growth. As a result, backups were exceeding their target backup window, and restores—which had to be made from backup tapes—were slow.

WA News had a spectrum of file types and related repositories. In addition to typical business applications such as MS Exchange, *WA News* also had publishing-specific applications such as a 10TB picture archive repository, a 12TB enterprise vault, and 3TB print servers. The backup process was handled with Symantec Backup Exec 10 in conjunction with a Windows 2008 R2 backup server.

Daily incremental and differential backups were directed to a Sun VTL Prime, while weekly backups were directed to a Sun SL500 tape library. Monthly backups were consolidated onto a Quantum Scalar® i40 tape library for offsite archive.

"With such a large amount of data to protect, backups of the 12TB enterprise vault could take as much as 65 hours," Cowell says. "And with about one or more data restore requests per week, restores were also very, very slow."

FINDING A SYSTEM TO COPE WITH DATA GROWTH
Cowell and his team knew that they had to improve their data protection process in order to meet their internal goals and accommodate future data growth. A planned data center refresh presented them with the perfect opportunity, so they began looking into various options.

One specific goal was to be able to retain a minimum of 31 days of backups on a disk-based appliance. This would allow them to restore the overwhelming majority of files without having to resort to tape.

Having had a positive experience with the Quantum Scalar i40 tape library for monthly backup consolidations, *WA News* looked into Quantum's complete data protection offerings.

The Quantum DXi®-Series of disk-based backup appliances appealed to *WA News* for several reasons. First was Quantum's integrated deduplication capability. Second was the DXi appliance's ability to scale in capacity and performance to accommodate *WA News'* predicted data growth.

WA News and Quantum developed a solution customized for the paper's needs. In addition

"The implementation of the new infrastructure has been 'set and forget.'"

Jamie Cowell
Team Leader Infrastructure
Services–Server/Desktop, *WA News*

SOLUTION OVERVIEW
- Quantum DXi6700 Series and DXi6800 Series appliances
- Two Quantum Scalar i80 tape libraries
- Symantec Backup Exec 10

KEY BENEFITS
- Delivers 500 percent faster backup time than previous disk deduplication system
- Enables 32-50 days of backups to be kept on disk for quick restores
- Allows for future capacity growth in line with expected data growth
- Provides automated disaster recovery through built-in replication

to a DXi6702 midrange disk appliance with integrated deduplication, *WA News* also opted for two Scalar i80 tape libraries. One library was part of a local disk-to-disk-to-tape (D2D2T) solution. The other was for offsite archive of data to be used in the unlikely event of a complete disaster.

DXi APPLIANCE 500% FASTER

Since deploying its new D2D2T solution, Cowell and his team have been pleased with the results. The Quantum DXi6702 performs 500% faster than the Sun VTL Prime it replaced. In addition, the DXi6702 provides capacity to store as many as 50 days' worth of backups, making *WA News'* objective of restoring data from disk the team's new modus operandi.

 "The implementation of the new infrastructure has been 'set and forget,'" says Cowell, reflecting on the transition to the new Quantum DXi-Scalar solution. "When necessary, we are also able to restore five times quicker than before. The deduplication is now done on the fly, and replicating data from the DXi to tape is five to six times quicker and scales with multiple jobs."

Because *WA News* has had such a positive experience with its DXi6702, the paper recently deployed a Quantum DXi6802 at a remote location for disaster recovery. Each night, the DXi6702 uses its built-in replication capability to forward the day's backup across the WAN to the DXi6802, thereby providing an alternative to tape-based disaster recovery.

"When necessary, we are also able to restore five times quicker than before."

Jamie Cowell
Team Leader Infrastructure Services–Server/Desktop, *WA News*

ABOUT *THE WEST AUSTRALIAN*

First published in 1833, *The West Australian* is the second-oldest continually produced metropolitan newspaper in Australia. The newspaper is part of Seven West Media, a leading multi-platform media business based in Australia that also includes television stations, magazines, and an Internet platform.