Extreme Data Recovery for 2012 Olympic Borough

WALTHAM FOREST preserves infrastructure investment with superior Novell support

Waltham Forest, a residential and recreational borough inside the borders of Greater London, is one of five boroughs which have been designated host boroughs for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. In order to meet the Olympic challenge, Waltham Forest needed to expand and centralize its data protection.

Of utmost importance to Waltham Forest Council is its use of email and document management. The council's email is served from Novell GroupWise servers on a sophisticated 10-node NetWare failover cluster with two shared volumes and nearly 4 TB of data. In addition to this cluster, there are more than 150 live file servers in the network, and over 3000 desktop users. The computers are spread over many locations in Waltham Forest, connected by a wide area network. As data volumes grew and new technologies were implemented, data centre manager Steve King needed to ensure all information and applications – now and for the Olympics –are routinely backed up and easily and rapidly recoverable.

Steve King and his team identified three areas of concern: protecting the Novell cluster, protecting GroupWise resources and centralization of data protection across the network. The team tested BEX, Syncsort's data protection software for heterogeneous networks, and was very satisfied. "We purchased BEX because nothing else worked for our NetWare cluster," states Steve. "It was a no-brainer. The alternative was to ditch our entire cluster."

> "The fact that BEX supports so many platforms with a single interface and catalog is a bonus."
>
> — Steve King, Data Centre Manager, Waltham Forest Council

Steve notes that data protection for Novell clustering gives rise to a number of difficulties. Among them are assuring that data and files on shared cluster nodes are backed up only once, recognition of the active physical node by the backup software, and assuring no data is skipped if a physical node fails over during backup. BEX, which is cluster-aware for all current Novell operating systems, handles all these challenges. In addition to Novell cluster support, the Council needed reliable GroupWise protection on their clusters. BEX supports GroupWise through the Target Service Agents (TSAs) recommended by Novell. This enables backup of the entire GroupWise domain structure as well as restores of entire domains or individual files. Entire post offices or individual files within a post office can also be backed up or recovered.

Waltham Forest

INDUSTRY

- Public Sector

CHALLENGE

- Protecting the Novell cluster
- Protecting GroupWise resources
- Centralization of data protection across the network

SOLUTION

- Protect Novell applications in a cluster environment
- Rapidly recover email post offices and individual files

BUSINESS VALUE

- Reliable and effective data protection under an Olympic spotlight
- Preserve existing data infrastructure and provide flexibility for future growth and change
- Reassign resources to more important tasks based on the time saved from checking backups at multiple sites

About Syncsort

Syncsort is a global software company that helps the world's most successful organizations rethink the economics of data. Syncsort provides extreme data performance and rapid time to value through easy to use data integration and data protection solutions. With over 12,000 deployments, Syncsort has transformed decision making and delivered more profitable results to thousands of customers worldwide.

syncsort RETHINK THE ECONOMICS OF DATA

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