

Tandberg Data Provides a Timely Storage Solution for Essential Services

Tandberg Data's donation of a Virtual Tape Library and Tape Autoloader helps a leading organization for blind children grow by minimizing ongoing storage costs and maximizing data protection performance.



Founded in 1952 and headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, the Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) is a gold standard agency serving the blind. The largest non-profit organization of its kind, FBC supported more than 2,000 children and adults last year, and many families have moved to the area to take advantage of the organization's outstanding programs.

Growing Pains

Like most non-profits, FBC tries to spend the highest possible percent of its donations on directly helping people and; therefore, operates on a very limited IT budget. Still, the organization, which must comply with HIPAA regulations, is committed to growth, putting a continuous strain on the IT infrastructure.

"Safe, accurate data backups are essential for us," said Charles Braffett, senior network and systems administrator for the Foundation for Blind Children. "We are digitizing our health records and will eventually shred all paper documents, so our storage infrastructure must be completely reliable. Our donor list database is critical to our operation, and it would take years to replace if it were lost due to inadequate backup. We also need to begin archiving all email to meet the requirements of the new HIPAA HITECH Act of 2009."

FBC simply could not have met all these challenges with its existing storage infrastructure, which consisted of direct-attached storage on its seven physical servers (including two servers hosting 24 virtual servers), two network-attached storage (NAS) devices totalling 5TB of capacity, and an LTO-1 tape backup system. The NAS devices were already 80 percent full, weekly backups took a painful 18 hours, and archiving already required seven tapes. But Braffett had few options and was faced with buying additional NAS devices and more and more tapes.

SOLUTION OVERVIEW



1 x Tandberg Data StorageLoader LTO-4
 1 x Tandberg Data DPS1100 VTL

Two physical servers (24 virtual servers)



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Charles Braffett,
Sr. Network & Systems Administrator
Foundation for Blind Children

Tandberg Data to the Rescue

Last August, however, Braffett attended a virtualization conference at which Tandberg Data was running a contest to award a free system, consisting of a DPS1100™ virtual tape library (VTL) and a StorageLoader™ LTO-4 tape autoloader, to the most deserving attendee. The DPS1100 VTL is a disk-based backup solution that uses high-performance, cost-effective disk storage to emulate a traditional tape library. It provides almost immediate access to data and dramatically reduces backup and recovery time. The StorageLoader LTO-4, with two 4-slot magazines offering up to 12.8TB of compressed data, offers high capacity and performance, as well as advanced data management features in a compact low-profile 1U form factor.

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Tandberg Data saw it differently. “When we saw the work the Foundation for Blind Children was doing, we were extremely impressed,” said Marije Stijnen, vice president of marketing, at Tandberg Data. “Although there were several very deserving organizations, we were pleased to award the system to the Foundation, and we’re immensely gratified by the many benefits it has delivered.”

By coincidence, during the week before the new system arrived, FBC faced a major storage crisis, a catastrophic failure of the NAS backup, so the arrival of the Tandberg Data system was timely. Said Braffett, “It was a huge relief to get the system, and with a little help from Tandberg Data, it took us only about two hours to set it up. We immediately backed up all our data, and I was extremely impressed that it took only two hours to back up 0.5TB of data.”

Today, instead of a weekly backup that took approximately 18 hours, Braffett is able to do daily backups of the financial and donation databases and client health records, and a weekly backup of all other files and the exchange database. Backup speed has increased 10 times, and with Tandberg Data’s 10:1 compression, FBC has ample capacity on the 2TB Tandberg Data DPS1100 VTL. In addition, using virtual tapes in the backup strategy instead of actual physical tapes results in a huge cost savings.

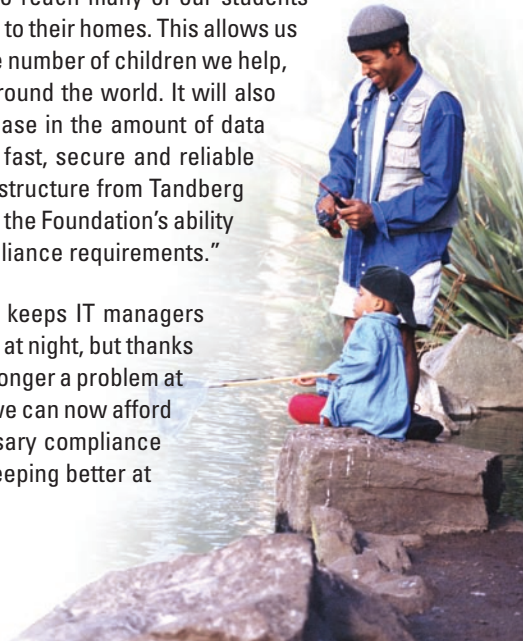
“We can backup more data more often, which means our data is safer and our backups are more current,” said Braffett. “But the system is also saving us money. We won’t have to buy additional NAS devices to keep

pace with our growth, and it has significantly reduced the number of tapes we need for archiving. We can now fit all of our current assets onto a single tape instead of using seven!”

The DPS1100 VTL and StorageLoader LTO-4 have created a data protection storage infrastructure that will meet FBC’s needs for years to come. The organization will be able to effectively manage the archiving requirements of the HIPPA HITECH Act and safely and efficiently back up its ever-growing amount of data.

Added Braffett: “We have begun to use an Internet-based distanced-learning model to reach many of our students instead of sending teachers to their homes. This allows us to dramatically increase the number of children we help, both here in Arizona and around the world. It will also lead to a tremendous increase in the amount of data we capture, so having this fast, secure and reliable storage and archiving infrastructure from Tandberg Data is absolutely critical to the Foundation’s ability to grow and meet our compliance requirements.”

The fear of data loss often keeps IT managers and top-level executives up at night, but thanks to Tandberg Data, that’s no longer a problem at FBC. “Our data is safe and we can now afford to implement all the necessary compliance processes, so we are all sleeping better at night.”



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About Tandberg Data

Tandberg Data is a leading global supplier of data protection solutions. Tandberg Data offers a wide selection of secondary storage solutions, ranging from disk-based solutions, such as the RDX® QuikStor™ and the Tandberg Data DPS Series, to automated tape solutions like the StorageLoader and StorageLibrary Series. Tandberg Data also offers tape drives, based on the DAT, LTO™, SLR™ and VXA® tape technology platforms, and media. Tandberg Data solutions are supported by robust, easy-to-use software. All solutions are supported through a worldwide service and support network, recognised globally for its outstanding levels of service. Tandberg Data solutions are designed to meet the growing storage requirements of small and medium-sized organisations with scalability, reliability, and backward compatibility features that ensure cost-effective operation and long-term investment protection.

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