

How Tandberg Data's T40+ Dramatically Reduced Net24's Backup Window

With data volumes growing at 30 per cent each year, online backup, email services and virtual private server provider Net24 could find only one solution capable of reducing its daily backup window to acceptable times. That solution was Tandberg Data's StorageLibrary T40+, which reduced the backup time from over 24 hours to only eight hours. Net24 expects to achieve even faster backups after it makes some software changes.

Critical Data Calls for Fail-safe Solution

For small to medium businesses (SMBs) to entrust their critical data to a company via the Internet requires a high degree of confidence in that company's ability to store and retrieve that data in a 100 per cent fail-safe manner. Clearly Net24 Limited in Christchurch, New Zealand, has done everything technically feasible to achieve that security level, assisted by Tandberg Data's solution.

Established almost a decade ago, Net24 also provides enterprise-level email and web hosting services through a robust network infrastructure. The company's rapid growth results from a focus on delivering high levels of customer satisfaction through dependability and performance. As well as online backup, Net24 provides solutions ranging from email filtering through to virtual private servers. Net24's new state-of-the-art data centre, due for completion in late November, will provide 10 times the existing server capacity allowing the company to offer a range of managed and unmanaged dedicated server services.

Managing Director Nikolai Schupbach says businesses that choose not to store their own data like the simplicity of storing it online. When the company launched in 1999, customers' data was backed up to DDS-3 tapes. "At that time we were backing up around 10GB of data. Now the daily volume backup data has soared to over 3.2TB and continues to increase every month," says Nikolai.

Net24 utilises Virtual Tape Library (VTL) technology to improve backup performance and reliability. VTLs use disk drives as storage, but operate exactly like a conventional tape library and therefore allow easy integration into any backup environment. "VTLs allow us to backup many systems simultaneously to fast disk systems, and we also benefit from fast restores. But VTLs do not replace physical tape libraries," he says.

"VTLs are part of our backup strategy—we copy everything from VTL to physical tape every day, but instead of removing the data from VTL immediately, we retain it for a short period of time which allows 99 per cent of restores to be performed from VTL. Physical tapes provide offline/offsite security of data, which is critical for disaster recovery. No VTL can provide that."

Solution Overview



1 x StorageLibrary T40+ with
2 x LTO-3 tape drives

Virtual Tape Library



The new technology is working really well. Tandberg Data has a unique product—no other tape vendor I have seen offers a pass-through mode that operates across multiple tape drives. As far as I know, that ability is unique. It's a brilliant idea."

Nikolai Schupbach,
Managing Director



When we need performance or space, we can simply buy another tape drive or library. Already it has enabled us to double both capacity and performance.”

At present Net24 uses one T40+ with two LTO-3 drives. With the current expansion rate they are looking to add another LTO-3 drive early next year. The pass-through feature allows five T40+ libraries to be stacked together utilising up to 20 physical tape drives and 123.2TB of capacity, giving Net24 expansion capabilities well into the foreseeable future. The new technology was supplied by Tandberg Data’s partner T-Data, and implemented by Net24. In six months of operation there have been no glitches or issues requiring support.

Nikolai Schupbach recalls: “We were having problems copying large volumes of data from VTL to tape in a small backup window. It was taking more than 24 hours, which was unacceptable. To solve this problem we needed to run additional backup jobs simultaneously, which meant we also needed more physical tape drives. We required a tape library that could scale as our business expands and allow us to meet our shrinking backup window.

Pass-through Technology to the Rescue

Net24 sought a tape library that would achieve the required speed and expandability, plus the ability to handle multiple backup jobs running simultaneously.

“It was a role just made for the Tandberg Data StorageLibrary T40+”, says Nikolai. “Its ability to add tape drives with a pass-through mode allows us to back up fast and add drives when required.

“Before, we were taking more than 24 hours to run the full backup. With the T40+ it takes eight hours and we are looking at reducing that time even further. Performance is not constrained by the tape library but by our backup software, which cannot send data to the drives fast enough.”

He added: “The new technology is working really well. Tandberg Data has a unique product - no other tape vendor I have seen offers a pass-through mode that allows stacking multiple tape libraries together into one virtual library—allowing tapes to be passed between physical libraries. As far as I know, that ability is unique. It’s a brilliant idea.

Cost-effective and Expandable

According to Nikolai, T-Data’s support team has been excellent with pricing and service. He says the new solution was easy to implement. They removed the old autoloader and plugged in the T40+. Finally, they had to perform a simple re-configuration of their backup software.

He rates the Tandberg Data tape library highly for cost-effectiveness: “It was around the same price as others, but the ability to scale and expand as necessary made it far more cost effective. Other products would not allow us to scale—when we ran out of space, we would need to buy another library rather than a tape drive.”



Also, when we run out of space, we can simply buy another tape drive. Already the solution has enabled us to double both capacity and performance.”

Nikolai Schupbach, Managing Director

www.net24.co.nz
www.tdata.co.nz
www.tandbergdata.com/apac

About Tandberg Data

Tandberg Data is a leading global supplier of backup and archiving technologies. Tandberg Data offers a complete range of tape libraries, tape autoloaders and tape drives (based on the LTO™, SLR™, VXA® tape technology platforms), storage software, data media and disk-based storage such as the RDX™ QuikStor. These solutions are marketed exclusively through a channel of qualified resellers and distributors. These solutions are underpinned by OEM agreements with major server manufacturers including IBM, Hitachi, Fujitsu, Fujitsu-Siemens, Apple and Dell and supported by all major operating systems and storage software applications to operate in heterogeneous network environments. All 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.

Tandberg Data ASA
 Økernveien 94
 N-0579 Oslo
 Norway
 Tel: +47 (0) 2218 9090
 Fax: +47 (0) 2218 9550

Tandberg Data Corporation
 2108 55th Street
 Boulder, CO 80301
 USA
 Tel: 303.442.4333
 Fax: 303.417.7170

Tandberg Data GmbH
 Feldstrasse 81
 44141 Dortmund
 Germany
 Tel: +49 (0) 231 5436 - 0
 Fax: +49 (0) 231 5436 - 111

Tandberg Data (Asia) Pte Ltd
 20 Bendemeer Road
 #04-05 Cyberhub
 Singapore 339914
 Tel: +65 (0) 6396 0786
 Fax: +65 (0) 6396 0787

Tandberg Data (Japan) Inc.
 Eitaibashi Eco-Piazza Bldg., 8th floor
 29-13, Shinkawa 1-chome,
 Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-033, Japan
 Tel: +81 (0) 355 662 871
 Fax: +81 (0) 355 662 875

In addition to the offices above TANDBERG DATA ASA has branch offices in the United Kingdom, France, Italy, India, China (PRC), Thailand and Brazil. TANDBERG DATA ASA is a publicly held company based in Oslo, Norway and is traded on the Oslo Stock Exchange (ticker=TAD). Specifications subject to change without notice. RDX QuikStor, BAKStor, and SLR are trademarks of Tandberg Data ASA. RDX is a registered trademark of ProStor Systems. LTO is a trademark of HP, IBM and Quantum. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. ©2007 TANDBERG DATA. All rights reserved.

CS-Net24_US_2008