

# LEVEL Studios Realizes Production Benefits with Tandberg Data Tape Library

**LEVEL delivers integrated marketing and product development for global brands. The company's services also include social media, information design, search engine marketing, 3D design and Web and application development.**

## It Starts With an End-of-Life Story

Mark Chester, senior network administrator at LEVEL, found himself with a critical data backup problem. The size of a full tape backup had grown beyond the capacity of his end-of-life tape library, requiring him to spend dozens of hours per month reallocating capacity and re-archiving backups that failed because they would run out of tape.

"We are in the process of completely rethinking and updating our data storage and backup infrastructure, but with the growth of our business and the tremendous increase in the size and number of digital media files, we needed an immediate solution that would fit into our final backup strategy," said Chester. "We needed a flexible, reliable and affordable high-capacity solution."

With a mix of business and creative teams, the LEVEL technology infrastructure consists of approximately half Windows and half Linux. The company's backup storage requirement had grown by 100 percent over the previous year, reaching approximately 18TB of data.

"The reviews of the Tandberg Data StorageLibrary T120+ tape library were very positive, and it easily provided the capacity we needed," said Chester. "It also worked with the third-party backup software we were using, and the capacity per dollar met our expectations, especially when you consider the overall cost of hardware and service."

*"Our Tandberg Data StorageLibrary represents an extremely affordable data protection insurance policy."*

**Mark Chester**  
**Senior Network Administrator,**  
**LEVEL Studios**

## SOLUTION OVERVIEW

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### TANDBERG DATA

StorageLibrary T120+ tape library

HP ProLiant DL385 server with RedHat EL5 x64

Arkeia Network Backup software

Windows and Linux server clients

18TB of Data



A major feature the Tandberg Data StorageLibrary T120+ brought to the table was the compatibility with major operating systems. Knowing that the Tandberg Data library solution could perform across all LEVEL operating environments was a key factor in the decision.

Another reason that LEVEL chose the Tandberg Data StorageLibrary T120+ was its rugged, metal construction that was perfect for optimal, long-term operation. The tape drive, power supply and fans are all customer replaceable units and can be replaced without removing the library from the rack. Scalable up to 342TB with performance up to 12 TB/hr (compressed), the StorageLibrary T120+ met the capacity and performance requirements that LEVEL needed.

## How A Backup System Should Work

“We’re very pleased with our Tandberg Data solution that has worked flawlessly. Even better, the deployment was seamless,” said Chester. “When the product arrived, I scheduled a Tandberg Data systems engineer for the install.”

Tandberg Data’s installation included a formal pre-installation site survey. This resulted in an integration plan and on-site installation process specifically tailored for the agency’s unique deployment. On the day of the installation, the Tandberg Data systems engineer arrived and was very pleasant and knowledgeable, according to Chester.

“All I had to do was make a little space for him to work and a few hours later he was done,” said Chester. “By the end of the afternoon, I fired up the software, which immediately recognized the new library, and I ran a test backup. This is how a backup system should work. No jams, no glitches, no dropped tapes. The system is also fast.”

Today, Chester uses a three-layer backup strategy. His daily differential and weekly incremental backups required approximately 200GB of data. His full, monthly backup is around 18TB.

“It isn’t always easy to put a specific dollar amount on the ROI of a backup system until there’s a disaster,” said Chester. “Fortunately we haven’t had a disaster since installing our Tandberg Data system. But the simplest form of data loss comes from accidentally deleting or overwriting the wrong file, and this typically happens about once a month here. These files can represent thousands or hundreds of thousands of dollars of effort on the part of our team, so not being able to restore them could mean a tremendous impact to our bottom line—not to mention our reputation if we can’t deliver our clients’ projects on time. The Tandberg Data StorageLibrary represents an extremely affordable insurance policy,” he said.

In addition, by eliminating the hours spent maintaining the old system, the StorageLibrary has given Chester several additional hours per month to spend on high-value projects. Moving forward, LEVEL plans to completely redefine its backup strategy and utilize the latest technologies, including deduplication and disk-to-disk backups. “Even so, our Tandberg Data StorageLibrary will remain an important part of our long-term data backup solution,” said Chester.



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*Senior Network Administrator, LEVEL Studios*

### About Tandberg Data

Tandberg Data is a leading global supplier of data protection solutions for small and medium-sized businesses. The company’s wide range of cost-effective storage products and services provides customers with best-in-class tape, disk, removable disk and software solutions for backup, archiving and disaster recovery. An extensive service and support network supports all Tandberg Data products worldwide.

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