

Munich Re uses CentricStor to reorganize data protection

Virtual tape technology makes backup and restore more efficient



»The complete solution implemented together with Fujitsu Siemens Computers covers all of our backup and restore needs and permits uniform use by both us and our holding company.«

Dr. Andreas Thomé, Manager System Operation, Munich Re

→ The Customer

Munich Re,
Munich/Germany

www.munichre.com

→ The Project

Consolidation and
modernization of
data protection
infrastructure

→ The Solution

Complete solution for
backup/restore based
on deployment of
CentricStor

Munich Re chose Fujitsu Siemens Computers as the general contractor for implementation of its BARES (BBackup-REstore Solution) project. The CentricStor Virtual Tape Appliance enables Munich Re to completely centralize data protection—including protection for its remote European locations. The CentricStor configuration, which is distributed over two locations, not only offers significant improvement in performance but also protection against the loss of data in the event of a disaster. The time windows for backup and recovery was also shortened and the utilization of tape resources significantly improved. Since CentricStor requires only a few favourably priced LTO drives, the savings in terms of physical tape drives was particularly

substantial. The total cost of the latter comes to only 10 percent of that of a conventional solution. In addition, service quality and functionality were also improved. According to the customer's figures, the break-even point is reached after 24 months with this solution.

Risky business

The Munich Re Group ranks among the world's leading insurers. The group is active along the entire added-value chain in the insurance area. The Munich Re Group include direct insurers such as ERGO, DKV, Victoria and DAS as well as the reinsurers Munich Re and American Re.



Benefits for Munich Re

- ❑ Failsafe high-performance data protection on tape with company-wide backup/restore infrastructure
- ❑ Appreciably lower overall costs—amortization of investment in 24 months
- ❑ Centralized in-house service guarantees reliable backup and restore
- ❑ Virtual tape technology reduces the workload of servers and the network and simplifies administration

The solution at a glance

- ❑ Centralized infrastructure: redundant CentricStor configuration distributed over two locations with two ADIC Scalar 10K tape libraries and LTO Ultrium tape drives
- ❑ Data protection software: NetWorker backup software from Fujitsu Siemens Computers
- ❑ Additional software tools: RepliStor for NetApp file servers, SQL BackTrack for Oracle databases

Risk-free backup and restore

In order to be able to handle backup volume, which is currently approaching 100 Terabyte per week, the BARES project of Munich Re involved implementation of a CentricStor solution that now has a total cache capacity of 86 Terabyte distributed over two locations. Five outdated tape libraries were replaced by two ADIC Scalar 10K tape systems with modern LTO Ultrium tape drives that are connected to CentricStor at the respective location. The redundant configuration, which is based on a solution that is distributed over two locations, precludes the loss on data in the event of a disaster. The file servers of the remote European locations are also integrated into the BARES project. Data are first saved to the central NetApp filers by RepliStor and then by CentricStor, using the Network Data Management Protocol (NDMP). The file servers in the demilitarized zone (DMZ) on the other side of the firewall are integrated with the version of the NetWorker backup solution adapted by Fujitsu Siemens Computers. For fast backup and restore in the SAP environment, the insurer uses the BCV (Business Continuity Volume) option in the EMC DMX storage systems together with the NetWorker solution. In order to reduce backup volume and simplify restoration of Oracle databases, Munich Re also introduced BMC's SQL BackTrack tool.

Security in combination with economy

The new solution has a big impact. For example, CentricStor supports a large number of virtual tape drives, which means it eliminates all resource and performance shortfalls and supports parallel backup of several servers at the same time. Autonomous management of the data in the CentricStor disk cache frees servers from routine tasks since CentricStor automatically duplicates data at the second location. This dual-save function makes it unnecessary to clone backup tapes, which requires considerable time and resources. At the same time, CentricStor eliminates the possibility of aborted backups because of defective storage media or tape drives since the system is designed for trouble-free operation with physical tape. CentricStor also automatically controls the quality of the media used to make sure that data are really readable in the case of a restore. The gain in performance during backup and restore is also significant since the effective front-end data transfer rate is about 2.3 Terabyte/h. All in all, Munich Re has achieved its goals. Simplified administration and the benefits of consolidation have resulted in impressive savings. At the same time, the solution has also significantly improved service quality and functionality.

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