

Tivoli Storage Manager enables secure data growth for booming estate developer



IBM Business Partner
RDA Group

Client
Peet Limited

IBM Tivoli solution component
• Tivoli Storage Manager

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– Cath Young,
Manager, Administration & IT,
Peet Limited

The challenge

Peet Limited is one of Australia’s foremost property developers, with a history of developing estates across Australia since 1895. In 2006, the company joined the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX), a move that required consideration of numerous compliance issues that arise on becoming a public company. Among those were offsite data retention and backup management requirements. These were concerns that Peet’s longtime IT services vendor and IBM® Business Partner RDA Group were prepared to address.

“We needed to update our network and improve the speed in which we talked to our other offices. Backup is always important because Peet is very unique. It’s not just one company, but actually has another 130 or so syndicated companies,” said Cath Young, Manager of Administration and IT for Peet.

Each syndicate company, created for a single land release, deal with as much data as one single company, yet one filled with power users needing access to extraordinarily large files and SQL databases.

“Their data was growing at a phenomenal rate; it includes aerial photos, large scale drawings, and planning drawings, which can be hundreds of megabytes,” explained John Dunsire, Senior Systems Engineer, RDA Group. “Even their Microsoft® Exchange® environment was growing at an unbelievable rate. I think it was about three years ago they hit 16GB of e-mail in Perth and now they are probably closer to 260GB.”

Peet was unable to manage that data growth with its existing backup solution, resulting in spanning of tapes, backups running beyond specified backup windows, and issues with ERP database restoration. Peet was backing up about 720 GBs each night, a process that extended hours after close of business.

Backups were impacting network performance to such an extent that a tape error brought down the Exchange server during an evening backup. This server handles all the inbound email for the eastern states and affected Peet's e-mail for several business hours before being restored.

The solution

Peet sought to implement services around all of their data, including a personal information management system within a Citrix environment. RDA Group engineers suggested virtualising Peet's infrastructure, a move that would necessitate the replacement of the Veritas Backup Exec software that had already been installed at Peet. This also utilised LTO Tape Drives that were installed on separate IBM xSeries® servers to backup data and applications via a LAN.

"With more data to backup as well as more services, we needed to give them something that was scalable," said Matt Johnson, Network Systems Manager for RDA Group.

RDA Group implemented IBM Tivoli® Storage Manager to consolidate Peet Limited's backup infrastructure, reduce the size of the backup window and help Peet better manage backup size, restoration and archive options. The solution included Tivoli Storage Manager for Databases and Tivoli Storage Manager for Mail.

RDA Group put in an IBM DS3400 SAN and installed Tivoli Storage Manager in the virtualised environment. Tivoli Storage Manager allowed Peet to implement a multiple tier backup architecture, effectively manage the tape library to alleviate tape spanning, reduce backup and restoration times, and comply with ASX regulations for offsite storage.

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Key Benefits

The incremental backup methodology of Tivoli Storage Manager has put Peet's backup duties in the maintenance category where they belong. Backup loads are much lighter, resulting in significantly fewer backups completed everyday. Offsite copies of data can be created during business hours without impacting the network, and Peet still has an onsite backup available at any moment.

Relations with RDA Group, which have remained strong for almost a decade, remain a major benefit for Peet. "RDA has to be part of our team and not just a help desk," Ms. Young stated emphatically. "I know I can contact them directly if I have a major problem; they have become an extension of the Peet staff. RDA put together a new structure and advised which would be the best equipment to take us to the next level."

Now all that's left for Peet is to finish conquering the rest of the wide world of Australia.

For more information

To find out more about IBM Tivoli software products for growing midmarket businesses, visit ibm.com/tivoli/smb

For more information on IBM Business Partner RDA Group, visit therdagroup.com.au

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