



## **Mobile DataVault “Backup-to-Portable Disk” System New Solution Challenges the Restore time of ANY Tape Drive**

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### **Case Study — Financial Service Centers Cooperative, Inc.**

Financial Services Company Replaces Tape with Higher-Capacity, Faster, and Less-Costly Solution for Backup and Disaster Recovery

#### **Background**

Financial Service Centers Cooperative, Inc. (FSCC) is a cooperative network of credit union outlets, co-locating multiple credit unions in more than 1200 locations across 40 states and seven countries. By sharing physical locations with other FSCC members, credit unions enhance customer service and loyalty by providing a larger number of convenient locations for their members to conduct in-branch financial transactions.

#### **The Problem — Tape Was Too Slow, Costly, and a “Headache” to Service**

After suffering capacity limitation and failed backups with its existing DAT tape drive, FSCC began searching for a new backup solution in fall 2003 to support its requirement to perform full backups of its data on a daily basis. Systems under early consideration by FSCC included a tape-based solution consisting of three higher-capacity SCSI tape drives with three separate servers. The cost of the system was approximately \$2000 per server, or \$6000 total.

However, as FSCC’s Chief Financial Officer Todd Olszowy explained, tape-based backup was not his ideal solution. “We were not excited about another tape drive because of the trouble we had before, but we were being forced to look at a new solution since we had critical data that required consistent backup, rotation, and offsite archival. We were experiencing numerous headaches with our DAT tape drive. The problems were thwarting our ability to have a proper backup and disaster recovery solution in place, despite considerable time and effort by my IT system administrator. We were very motivated to make a change!”

With a large amount of FSCC’s day-to-day communications being accomplished via email, it was critical to have the ability to quickly and securely back up and restore data with minimal downtime.

FSCC challenged its IT consultant, Bryan Bowers of Bowers Technologies, to identify a new, better solution.

#### **The Solution — New Backup and Storage System Using Durable and Blazing-Fast Hard Drives for BOTH Backup and Disaster Recovery**

Bowers contacted Olixir Technologies, who offered an enterprise-class storage solution that uses the industry’s first truly portable high-capacity hard drive. Olixir’s “Backup-to-Portable Disk” system, the industry’s first viable disk-based replacement for tape, utilizes a shock-protected portable drive that can be rotated AND archived daily using a hot-swappable desktop chassis.

With the adoption of the Olixir solution, FSCC saved about 33% of what it would have cost for tape-based alternatives. Utilizing Olixir’s 3.5” portable drives, FSCC replaced their slower 40 GB DAT tape drives with a kit consisting of five high-speed 250 GB capacity disk drives and a small, desktop chassis to rotate drives in and out of.

## **Impact — 15-Minute Install, 50% Reduced Backup Time, No Software Change, Restoration of Files in Seconds**

*Fast Installation* — Olixir's Mobile DataVault system was connected via a Firewire interface to FSCC's Windows 2000 servers. The solution was ready to use at that point because the new disk drives were recognized. According to FSCC's system IT administrator, "I was shocked that installation only took a few minutes — I was expecting two hours or more, like I have experienced with internal tape drives."

*Reduced Backup Time* — After making a minor configuration change in Veritas Backup Exec™ to enable the "backup-to-disk" option, FSCC began its first backup with the new system. The reduction in backup time was noticed immediately by Bowers, who noted, "FSCC's backup time was reduced by 50% over tape!"

*Easy Media Rotation* — Because this system integrates so well with Veritas software, FSCC now backs up its data with ease and rotates the hot-swappable Olixir Mobile DataVault hard drives regularly, just as it used to do with tape. Since the chassis used is hot-swappable, the server never has to be turned off. And with the patented shock protection of the individual Mobile DataVault hard drives, the fragile nature typical of most hard disk drives is eliminated. Rotation and offsite archiving require frequent handling, and therefore, the media often experiences jolts during these operations. Bare hard disk drives and almost all other external drives are too fragile for such shock. In fact, Independent Technology Services states, "Rough handling accounts for more hard disk damage than all other factors combined". Mobile DataVault external hard drives solve this problem with breakthrough shock protection, which is over 425% greater than over 35 other popular external drives.

Results attributed to the integration of the Olixir Mobile DataVault system at FSCC:

- Restore time of files decreased by over 2500%
- Backup time for entire firm reduced 50%
- Infinitely expandable with higher-capacity drives
- Also expandable via daisy-chain
- Up-front investment savings of 33%
- Installed in minutes (over 1/8 the time of tape)
- Decreased media required with over 500% higher-capacity drives compared to tape cartridges
- Allows for unattended backup — no cleaning required and two to three magnitudes more reliable recording
- No software switch necessary; compatible with Veritas Backup Exec 9.0+
- Three-year warranty instead of typical one year for tape

### **Mobile DataVault Hard Drives – Reliable**

Olixir's drives are shock protected to 1200 G, offering 425% more shock protection than almost every other popular 3.5-inch external hard drive. This industry-best shock protection makes the drive so durable it can survive accidental drops and can handle daily insertion and removal in its 5.25-inch Databay chassis. Laboratory testing shows that this solution provides breakthrough reliability, with over four times higher Mean Time Between Failure (MTBF), compared to drives without shock protection. Olixir warrants this drive with three years of warranty protection, compared to just one year for most tapes and other external hard drives.

Darshan Shah, President of Olixir, states, "Until now, no other disk drive solution could completely replace the function of tape because disk drives were too fragile to be rotated daily and transported for offsite archival. Our patent-pending shock protection technology changes that. However, this incredible level of shock protection comes WITHOUT greatly increasing the physical size of the drive — our portable drives are over 40% smaller than most other popular 3.5" external hard drives that have no shock protection. With our technology, we make high-capacity 3.5-inch ATA drives truly portable, which is a key requirement to replacing tape with disk drives! By using these high-capacity portable hard drives and high data transfer rate interfaces, we are able to address the four biggest concerns in backup: capacity, speed, ease-of-use, and affordability."

**For more information, contact Olixir Technologies at (800) 719-0595 or visit [www.olixir.com](http://www.olixir.com)**