



FastRestore SE System

New Solution Challenges the Restore time of ANY Tape Drive

Case Study — SECUDE IT Security GmbH

Global Manufacturer of IT Security Software Replaces Tape with Fast, High-Capacity Disk Drive-Based Solution for Data Backup to Save Time and Increase Reliability

Background

Secude IT Security GmbH is a leading global manufacturer of standard IT security software based on certificates and smartcards. The Swiss-based company has branches in Zurich, Switzerland and Darmstadt, Germany. Secude's high-quality IT security, smartcard management, and Single Sign-On solutions optimally protect electronic business processes, increase user acceptance, and significantly reduce costs.

The Problem — Tape Was Slow, Bulky, Unreliable, and Expensive

Like many of today's large corporations, the amount of data accumulating on Secude's servers on a daily basis mandated daily server backups, using up to six tapes per day. As the physical amount of the data increased, Secude found itself becoming increasingly frustrated with issues plaguing their DLT tape-based backup system.

"Backing up our data to tape was slow, and we often had tape drives go bad, resulting in server downtime and missing backups," explained Beat Scholl, Senior Solution Engineer at Secude. "So it was tedious to analyze the problems with the tape drives and solve them within a reasonable amount of time. But what really bothered me was the lack of speed."

In addition to the physical size of the tapes, which took up an enormous amount of space in the company's safe, Scholl noted that the tape technology was expensive and expansion was limited. "As we looked for a better solution to our data backup requirements, we found that the available tape-based systems did not suit our needs. We found them to be expensive, data capacities were limited and the drives were not expandable. If we needed more capacity in the future, we would have to buy a new, expensive tape drive."

"And the tape drives simply can't match the speed of an external hard disk," Scholl added. "I was looking for a fast, high-capacity solution for our backup needs".

The Solution — Olixir's FastRestore SE System Using Durable and Blazing-Fast Hard Drives for Data Backup and Archival

After extensively research the variety of backup solutions available, Scholl chose Olixir's FastRestore SE Backup and Disaster Recovery system. "The sexiest feature is the hot-pluggable chassis and the tremendous speed of backup and restore operations," Scholl said.

"The ATA interface will be the same in the future, but the size of the disk will keep growing. In case we need more storage we can either daisy-chain the chassis or exchange the media with newer and bigger drives. And, with the plug-and-play Olixir drives, the data is portable to any computer without the need of a tape drive, which makes them usable for other needs."

To meet its challenging backup requirements, Secude purchased the FastRestore SE system and an additional 15 portable drives for a total of 20 250-GB drives. The system was connected to a Dell PV770N Network Attached Storage device running Windows Storage Server 2003.

Impact — Easy Installation, 68% Reduced Backup Time, Restoration of Files in Seconds

Easy Installation —Using the Firewire interface, Olixir's FastRestore SE Backup and Disaster Recovery system was quickly and easily connected to Secude's NAS device. "The implementation was easy and the system was up and running from the first day onward," explained Scholl. As Scholl dealt with troubleshooting a minor software bug unrelated to the FastRestore SE system, he noted, "What excited me most was that Olixir never told me 'not our problem.' I could always count on their support and got everything I needed in the shortest amount of time."

Reduced Backup Time — Taking advantage of the speed of hard drive-based system versus tape, Scholl reported that he performs full backups each day following the grandfather-father-son principle and does not make any incremental backups. "What, in old times, used to take sometimes more than 12 hours is now completed in 3.5 hours," stated Scholl.

Fast Data Restoration — Again, Scholl highlighted the high performance and reliability characteristics of the FastRestore SE system over tape-based technology. "If I need to accomplish a restore, it takes me longer to go to the safe to get the disk drive than it takes to actually get the data from the disk," he said.

Integrating the Olixir Mobile DataVault FastRestore SE Backup and Disaster Recovery system provides users the following benefits:

- Restore time of files decreased by over 2500%
- Backup time reduced by over 70% from that of tape drives
- Up-front cost savings of \$12,000 or 50% over tape
- Sharp reduction of future investment: "Infinitely expandable" with higher-capacity drives
- Also expandable via daisy-chain of chassis
- Installed quickly (about 1/8 the time of tape): Plug-and-play with USB 2.0 or Firewire
- Decreased media required because Olixir portable drives have large 250 GB/500 GB capacity (other capacities are available from Olixir)
- Two to three magnitudes more reliable recording compared to tape (and no headaches with tensioning, degradation of tapes, and cleaning)
- No software switch necessary; compatible with Veritas Backup Exec 9.0+
- Three-year warranty, compared to the typical one year that most off-the-shelf IT hardware products offer

Mobile DataVault Hard Drives – Reliable

Olixir's drives are shock protected to 1200G, offering over 425% more shock protection than other popular 3.5-inch external hard drives. This industry-best shock protection makes the drive so durable it can survive accidental drops and easily handle the small knocks of daily insertion and removal from its 5.25-inch docking bay chassis. Laboratory testing shows that this solution provides breakthrough durability, which is a leading cause of disk drive failures as cited by hard drive manufacturers. Olixir's extremely low warranty rate further confirms the higher level of reliability afforded by using shock protection. Olixir backs its products with three years of warranty protection, compared to just one year for most tapes and other external hard drives.

Olixir President Darshan Shah states, "Until now, no other disk drive solution could completely replace the function of tape for backup and disaster recovery because disk drives were too fragile to be rotated daily and transported for offsite archival. Our patent-pending shock protection technology changes that. This incredible level of shock protection does not compromise the compact form factor of our portable drives. These drives are handheld and over 40% smaller than most other 3.5-inch 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 following biggest concerns in backup: reliability, capacity, performance, ease of use, and affordability."

Resources:

For a report on how Olixir's Mobile DataVault 3DX stacks up against more than 35 other popular external and portable drives, please call (800) 719-0595 ext. 101, and ask for "The Optimal External Storage Survey".