



Leading North American Oil and Gas Company

Fast, reliable backup and recovery for 32 remote sites using existing networks

Benefits

- Completes daily full backups in less than five minutes
- Performs data recovery in less than five minutes
- Reduces network traffic by 98 percent during backup of remote sites
- Provides central administration of backup and restore functions, eliminating dependence on non-technical remote staff

Business overview

This EMC customer is a leading global producer of natural gas, employing thousands of employees in operations located on three continents. The company produces other hydrocarbons as well.

Challenges

To comply with health, safety, and environmental regulations as well as production reporting best practices, this leading oil and gas producer must be able to produce data on demand from its 32 remote sites that monitor production and movement of gas and oil. Due to limited remote IT resources and hot, unclear environmental conditions, the company's traditional tape backup solution could not provide consistent, reliable backup and recovery of remote site data.

Need reliable backup for 32 remote sites

Using traditional tape backup, at least 30 percent of all remote office backup jobs failed—an unacceptably high failure rate. When data needed to be restored from tape, there was no guarantee that the backup data was complete or recoverable and excessive heat and dust at some field offices caused further reliability challenges. In addition, recovery efforts at remote sites were often delayed since technical staff had to travel to the sites to recover needed data.

The company decided to find a better, more reliable backup solution for remote sites, and key requirements included:

- Fast, reliable daily full backups of remote site data
 - Consolidation of remote site backup data at main data center
 - Fast, reliable data recovery when required
 - Reduced use of tape-based backup solutions
 - Centralized management to reduce dependence on local, non-technical office staff
 - Leveraged existing network bandwidth
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Business profile

Leading North American Oil and Gas Company

A leading producer of hydrocarbons

Industry

Oil and gas

Business solution

Data backup and recovery

EMC products

EMC Avamar

Deployment summary

EMC Avamar enables daily full backups for 32 remote sites throughout North America

EMC solution

After investigating a number of options, including solutions from Symantec and Network Appliance, the company selected EMC® Avamar®, the only remote office backup solution that met all of its requirements. EMC Avamar patented global data de-duplication technology reduces the size of backup data at the source—before it is transferred across the network. Only new, unique sub-file data segments are transferred across the network during daily full backups, which dramatically reduces network traffic and enables the use of existing LAN/WAN bandwidth. Plus, backup data can be encrypted both in flight and at rest for added security. As a result, Avamar delivers fast, reliable, and secure remote office backup.

Deploying the EMC Avamar solution was quick and easy. Software agents were simply loaded onto the remote servers to be protected with no additional remote site hardware required. The centralized management capabilities of the EMC Avamar solution streamlined backup and recovery processes and eliminated reliance on remote staff.

Remote sites backed up in less than five minutes

By only backing up new, unique sub-file data segments, EMC Avamar enabled the company to perform daily full backups of remote office data in less than five minutes. In addition, the time required to backup all remote offices has been reduced by over 50 percent and the Avamar daily integrity checks ensure that backup data can be quickly recovered when needed.

Backup network traffic reduced by 98 percent, with virtually no impact on end users

By deploying EMC Avamar, the backup related network traffic has been reduced by 98 percent and backup jobs have virtually no impact on application server performance. End users are not aware that backup jobs are taking place and IT managers now have more time for other activities.

Quick, easy data restoration for remote sites thanks to centralized management

EMC Avamar also gives the company's network administrator centralized control of all remote backups. Backup and restore functions for all workstations and laptops in remote offices can be conducted from a central management console with no field resources required.

Unlike the company's previous traditional tape backup solution, Avamar provides daily full backups that can be quickly recovered in just one step—eliminating the hassle of restoring full and subsequent incremental backups to reach the desired recovery point. In addition, Avamar allows administrators to perform direct restores of individual data files or volumes without the need to install Avamar agents on target systems. With Avamar, instead of waiting for a field technician to arrive and hoping that the data can be restored from tape, remote office data is now recovered in less than five minutes.

Summary

By switching from a traditional tape backup solution to EMC Avamar, this leading hydrocarbon producer enjoys consistent, reliable backup for its 32 field sites. In addition to enabling compliance with internal policies and best practices, Avamar has also reduced network traffic during remote backups and enabled fast data recovery—typically in less than five minutes—without the need for field resources.



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