



Objective

Ensure business continuity with a flexible and fully auditable backup solution

Approach

Used industry specialist to assist in upgrading legacy backup software from HPE

IT Matters

- Reliable, automated backup creation
- Single console view delivers easy to manage and maintain data backup
- Federated deduplication function reduces backup data volumes

Business Matters

- Ensures business continuity in the event of a disaster
- Auditor-approved backup strategy ensures business compliance
- Integrates easily into new and expanding IT environments

Tech Data accelerates backups in a complex environment

HPE Data Protector secures data for one of world's largest IT distributors



Challenge

Audit-proof backups for a heterogeneous environment

The Tech Data Corporation is one of the world's largest distributors of IT products, services and solutions. With highly developed logistics capabilities and tried-and-tested value-add services, Tech Data supports more than 115,000 distribution partners in over 100 countries, helping them to meet their customers' unique technological demands efficiently and cost-effectively.

The company has experienced strong growth in recent years, both organically and through acquisitions. For example, its takeover of SDG in 2012 brought a great number of IT distributors in Great Britain, France and the Netherlands into the company.

"This strong growth has led to an average annual increase in data volumes of around 10 per cent in recent years. And it's obviously been even higher in years in which we've made acquisitions," explains Oliver Wriedt, IT Administrator at Tech Data's European headquarters in Munich. Wriedt is responsible for backing up all of the data outside of the core SAP system.

The company's core applications include products developed in-house as well as SAP Business Information Warehouse, SAP Supply Chain Management and SAP CRM. These applications are absolutely critical to the IT distributor's operations as without them, it would not be able to deliver any of its products.

“The main benefit of HPE Data Protector is that it can support very heterogeneous IT landscapes. We have been able to integrate everything very easily and create audit-friendly backups quickly, even for new environments.”

– Oliver Wriedt, IT Administrator, Tech Data

One of the key factors on which auditors assess companies is whether risks, that could halt business processes, are kept to an absolute minimum. Regular, secure backups are therefore extremely important for Tech Data as they enable it to quickly restore its data, applications and databases.

Solution

HPE Data Protector as standard across the company

Tech Data has been using HPE Data Protector software to create its backups for almost 20 years.

“As the backups are reliable, we can guarantee high availability for all of our user data. Our business processes will always continue to run without interruption and that means that our systems pass the strict audits every time,” says Wriedt.

“The main benefit for us in the IT department is that the software is incredibly flexible in terms of the different systems it can connect with. It supports a great number of heterogeneous systems. This is particularly beneficial when we acquire new companies, and is a key reason for our decision to make HPE Data Protector our standard backup software.”

The company currently has almost 400 terabytes of data being backed up to HPE StoreEver MSL tape libraries of various sizes, some in Munich and others spread across 24 of its branch offices. The backups are always triggered from the Munich headquarters.

Tech Data's IT landscape is unusually heterogeneous. Its data centre covers almost every operating system available, from various Windows® operating system versions to UNIX® and Linux. Plus, there is also a VMware cluster. On top of this the company uses mainly Oracle Database and Microsoft® SQL Server.

Benefit

Hassle-free backups, even after acquisitions

“Our backup software has to be able to cope with all kinds of technologies as we tend to keep companies' legacy IT infrastructures running in the initial period after we acquire them,” says Wriedt.

“HPE Data Protector has never disappointed us in this respect. We have so far been able to integrate everything very easily and to quickly create audit-proof backups of the new environments. We are very happy with it.”

Unusual Linux derivatives and file systems have been integrated over the years and Wriedt also praises the backup software's ease of use to incorporate these more unusual demands.

Customer at a glance

Hardware

- HPE StoreEver MSL Tape Library

Software

- HPE Data Protector

During a standard week, the majority of the company's data and applications is incrementally backed up to tapes then full system backups are run at the weekend. Certain systems such as SAP Business Information Warehouse are backed up throughout the day. To ensure that these backups do not affect the performance of its productive operations, Tech Data uses high performance input/output (I/O) throughout its backup environment, and the company is in regular contact with HPE Gold Partner eSell to ensure everything continues running smoothly.

"We have been developing the backup environment with eSell's assistance for many years. Having a competent partner there to support us makes it a fast and simple process," says Wriedt.

Thanks to this partnership, Tech Data now has three installations of HPE Data Protector running with around 400 clients. eSell also helped Tech Data to plan its migration to HPE Data Protector 9.03 when support for its existing version was being discontinued. It not only advised the company on technical queries, but also on its licensing options.

The new version of the backup software has enabled Tech Data to decrease its backup capacities dramatically through HPE StoreOnce deduplication technology. This has the knock-on benefit of reducing the number of tapes the company has to manage. Restore time in the event of a disaster has also been reduced, thanks to a variety of new automation functions.

The IT department will soon be able to use HPE Data Protector to create image backups of the VMware directly from VMware itself – a function that was not possible with the version Tech Data was previously using.

Wriedt concludes: "This will make restoring the virtualisation platform faster than ever before."

Learn more at
hpe.com/software/dataprotector



About eSell

eSell GmbH was founded in 1999 and is an HPE Gold Partner. Its core business focuses on the conceptualisation, installation and implementation of highly available IT architectures for business-critical applications such as SAP in Unix environments. Its customers include private and public sector companies with particularly high requirements in terms of the reliability and disaster-tolerance of their data centre operations. The company has offices in Saarbrücken and Holzkirchen near Munich.



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