



Backup Express

Success Story: American Identity

American Identity Turns to Backup Express for Innovative Data Protection

Organizational Profile

- Specialize in the development, promotion and extension of corporate and brand trademarks through logoed merchandise
- Provide solutions to corporate clients in every major industry

Business Needs

- Protect a terabyte of data
- Back up data on a Windows cluster
- Ability to perform remote backups

Environment

- 80 IBM E-Servers running Windows 2000 or NT 4.0
- SpectraLogic 215 tape library with 30 slots using AIT2 tapes
- Servers are located in three different states

Benefits

- Achieves superior performance when backing up large amounts of data
- Provides Windows cluster support in a SAN environment
- Easily backs up data from remote locations

“One of the features that I like about Backup Express is being able to look at the file, determine all the times that it was backed up, and then select the specific one to recover.”

Jerry Lees
Manager of Network Administration
American Identity

The Challenge:

For over 57 years, American Identity has specialized in the development, promotion and extension of corporate and brand trademarks through logoed merchandise. These promotional product solutions are available to corporate clients in every major industry through a variety of innovative programs. Of course, these programs generate a tremendous amount of business-critical data that the company knows is vital to protect. That's why American Identity took on the task of developing an effective backup and restore strategy. In order to implement the strategy, Manager of Network Administration Jerry Lees searched for a high-performance backup and restore solution that met the unique requirements of his company, from backing up data on Windows 2000 and NT servers and providing cluster support to handling remote backups. After performing benchmarks with numerous solutions, the company selected Backup Express from Syncsort Incorporated.

The Solution:

American Identity uses Backup Express to back up a terabyte of data from 80 servers. The servers are IBM E-Servers that run either Windows 2000 or NT 4.0. The data, which includes applications, entire Web sites, and financial information, is backed up on AIT2 tapes using a SpectraLogic 215 tape library with 30 slots. The servers are physically located in three different locations: Overland Park, Kansas, Orange City, Iowa, and Lansing, Michigan. American Identity is able to back up the data from the Overland Park office using the remote backup feature in Backup Express. American Identity performs incremental backups during the week and a full backup over the weekend. During the incrementals, only files that have changed since the last base or incremental backup are backed up.

American Identity utilizes clusters on a SAN, which are multiple computers and redundant interconnections that form what appears to be a single, highly available system. When a computer unexpectedly fails or is intentionally taken down, clustering ensures that running processes and services switch to another machine, or “fail over,” in the cluster. This happens without interruption or the need for immediate user intervention. Another key benefit of clustering is that it helps make systems more scalable because it allows for incremental growth. The number of users who need to access an application can be increased at any time. Also as more users work on the computer cluster and the servers begin to slow down, additional resources can easily be added to improve performance.

Backup Express provides Windows cluster support in a SAN environment, allowing American Identity to back up shared cluster resources to shared SAN devices. It also supports fail over to alternate paths when the primary path

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fails. With this clustering support, if fail over occurs during a backup job, the task will automatically retry and succeed on another physical node.

The Benefits:

When Lees needed to recover files, Backup Express gave him the ability to do so quickly and easily. "Fortunately, we haven't had any major problems but we have had to perform disaster recovery on various files. One of the features that I like about Backup Express is being able to look at the file, determine all the times that it was backed up, and then select the specific one to recover. We don't have to search through all the tapes to find the file."

By being able to accommodate all of the particulars of American Identity's configuration and requirements, Backup Express has become an integral part of American Identity's data protection strategy. American Identity is able to perform remote backups, back up data on a Windows cluster in a SAN environment, restore point-in-time files selectively, and much more.

About Backup Express:

Backup Express is an enterprise-wide backup and restore solution designed for UNIX, Linux, Windows, and NetWare environments and provides support for the broadest range of technologies and platforms. Backup Express is the only solution that supports any combination of UNIX, Windows, NetWare, and NDMP/NAS in a SAN, performs backup of all data directly across the fibre network, dynamically shares all tape drives, and controls this single enterprise environment with a single catalog and easy to use GUI. Backup Express also supports all eight NDMP incrementals.

Backup Express's distributed architecture allows it to back up to any device in the network whether it is running UNIX, Linux, Windows, or NetWare, while maintaining a single central catalog for the entire enterprise. Backup Express can attach tape drives, including large automated libraries, at any server on the enterprise; dynamically allocate drives within a SAN; keep sensitive data off the network; allow on-line backups of large database servers such as Oracle, SAP, MS Exchange, SQL Server, Sybase, DB2, and Lotus Notes. For more information, call 201-930-8200 or visit www.syncsort.com.