SEPATON®

24 Hour Fitness Turns to SEPATON to Strengthen Its Data Protection

24 Hour Fitness, an innovative leader in the health and fitness industry, serves more than three million members in 370 clubs across 16 US states and in Asia. The company relies on large Oracle® databases to manage all of its business operations data, including fitness club records, financial information, payroll, and human resources documents. When the company's tape library system could no longer handle their growing volumes of data, 24 Hour Fitness implemented a SEPATON® S2100®-ES2 virtual tape library to gain the level of scalability, performance, and reliability they need to protect this business-critical information.

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> Manager, UNIX Systems
> 24 Hour Fitness

24 Hour Fitness Overview

Health and fitness clubs with more than 3 million members and 370 facilities throughout the US and Asia.

Backup Application

Veritas® NetBackup® by Symantec®

Key Benefits

- Cut backup times
- Leveraged investment in tapes
- Enabled scaling of performance and capacity as needed

The Environment

24 Hour Fitness uses a Quantum® 700 tape library system with 16 tape drives and Veritas NetBackup for their backup software. "We were using our tape drives at maximum capacity," said William Lefler, Manager, UNIX systems. "We knew that adding more tape drives would be cost-prohibitive and would not improve the issues we were facing with the existing system." The company's existing system required more than 12 hours to restore a single database and would sometimes fail after several hours because tape drives were unavailable.

The Challenge

The company wanted a new solution that would not disrupt their existing environment or require them to change backup policies or their software application. They also wanted a solution that would improve their restore times and enable them to handle their rapid data growth easily. "Our key evaluation criteria were scalability, reliability, and restore performance," said Eliot Kaagan, Senior Systems Architect.

The Evaluation

24 Hour Fitness IT staff considered three options for their new system: adding more Quantum tape drives, using a Fibre Channel ATA disk drive solution, and implementing a SEPATON S2100-ES2 virtual tape library solution. "Adding multiple tape drives would have handled our need for more capacity, but would not have solved our reliability or restore time issues," said Lefler. "In addition, the system we considered would have required a large amount of space in our data center — with significantly higher cooling, power, and security costs."

The ATA disk-based solution was overly complex and did not provide the level of performance or flexibility that 24 Hour Fitness needed to manage their data protection efficiently.

The Solution

24 Hour Fitness chose to protect their data with a SEPATON S2100-ES2 VTL with 35 TB of storage and 1 scalable replication engine (SRE®) node. Built on the SEPATON ContentAware™ architecture, the ES2 is the fastest, most scalable backup and restore solution in the industry. Advanced

tape library emulation enables it to be implemented in an existing system without disruption.

The 24 Hour Fitness IT staff was pleased with how quickly and easily the system was set up. "The SEPATON system was ready to go in less than a day and configuring it was the same as setting up a tape library in our existing system," said Lefler. The SEPATON system augmented the 24 Hour Fitness tape system and did not require any changes to their backup policies or procedures.

"We are particularly pleased with the responsiveness and service provided by the SEPATON support team," said Lefler. "They were excellent to work with."

The Results

Since implementing the SEPATON S2100-ES2, the 24 Hour Fitness IT staff has seen a complete elimination of tape drive failures and 33% faster restore times. "We used to see two or more significant tape failures per month," said Lefler. "The SEPATON system has eliminated those failures completely and saved us a lot of time and aggravation."

The SEPATON system also addresses the company's capacity scalability requirements by enabling them to scale to more than 1 PB of usable storage without disruption to their backup operations.

"We consider the SEPATON S2100-ES2 a key element of our information lifecycle management (ILM) process and we plan to leverage the technology in every way we can," said Kaagan. The company is planning to expand its usage of the S2100 system in its off-site disaster recovery program.

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