

Online remote office, branch office (robo) backup



A business services provider with multiple offices around the country. A central IT department looks after the company's mission-critical servers and data. With limited resources, the staff found it hard to devote much time or budget to the IT needs of individual branch offices.

The lack of local IT expertise means that the non-technical staff is left to their own devices. Fortunately the central servers, where most of the business critical information is held, are backed up by the central support team. Information on servers and workstations in the branch offices, however, is not included and branch staff has been given very little guidance or training on how to protect these local resources.

The branch offices in this company connect to the central site using a mix of leased lines and dedicated connection with speeds of 2-20Mbps. Even at the top speed, 1GB of data would take at least 7 minutes to backup - assuming no other traffic is being carried. That's rarely the case, even out of hours. On average it can take up to an hour to copy 1GB, making backup to the central server virtually unworkable.



Challenges:

- Branch office servers are generally backed up by non-technical IT staff who do not have the skills to handle it Disaster recovery has been compromised because not all the branch office servers are being backed up on a consistent basis.
- Some branch offices are centrally managed; however, performance issues contribute to backups failing to complete and PCs running slowly.

Solution:

- Acronis[®] Backup & Recovery[™] 11 Advanced Server
- Acronis[®] Backup & Recovery[™] 11 Online

Key Benefits:

- Acronis Backup & Recovery 11 enables both local systems and those in branch offices to be protected with simple backup plans from an integrated central console. The ability to schedule and manage backup jobs centrally makes for light-touch management with little end-user involvement required, with simple user-driven recovery of lost files a key benefit in this situation.
- Application of backup plans to computers on local, remote or branch sites with capabilities to back up and recover locally and remotely, provides both rapid restore from local backup, as well as disaster recovery in the event of loss or theft of a system via remote backup.
- Centralised dashboard to provide an overview of the configured and running operations on all systems (remotely or locally), enhancing control and decision making.
- With Acronis Backup & Recovery 11 Online, some or all of the backup data can be stored online, reducing the link bandwidth consumption to the central server and at the same time enable backups to be stored at a secure off-site location. Should the bandwidth not be available to upload the entire system images to the online vault, initial seeding allows the customer to ship these images via physical hard drive and subsequently only transmit the system changes over the Internet connection.

Implementation:

Acronis Backup & Recovery 11 Online is used to back up the servers at each branch office to an online archive as an alternative to conducting backups from each location to the central site. Acronis Backup & Recovery 11 Advanced Server is used to manage the server backups at the central site and the branch office backups are accessed from the central site during off-peak hours.

Results:

By using Acronis Backup & Recovery 11 Online for branch office backup, the service provider found that they could achieve a higher level of data protection while simultaneously reducing the cost of their backup operations. They accomplished this because the branch office backups could be done into the cloud repository during an off-peak period that best accommodated their schedules.

Acronis Backup & Recovery 11's Catalog facility was used by the central IT site to manage and access all of the backups throughout the company. Instead of having to dedicate extensive network bandwidth, sometimes during peak operating hours, to back up the branch offices directly to the central site, the central site could access the branch office backups through the cloud during off peak hours. The branch offices could also conduct their backups into the Cloud during off-peak hours and on a schedule that was convenient for them.

The offsite cloud backups were also retained as part of expanded Disaster Recovery for all of the companies IT resources. The backups that were done on-premise used Acronis Backup & Recovery 11 multi-destination backup capability to implement a disk-to-disk-to-tape (D2D2T) strategy for the aggregate on-premise and remote office backups and a disk-to-disk-to-cloud (D2D2C) strategy for the on-premise as well as aggregated on-premise/remote office backups.

This provided a flexible means to recover from disk or tape in the event of a non-destructive disaster, or from the cloud in the event that a more severe, destructive disaster, such as a flood, tornado, or hurricane disabled the central data center.

For additional information please visit http://www.acronis.eu



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