Online data protection

Acronis®

A rapidly growing small company with 45 employees which has opted to host its own file and print, email and other servers in a custom-built server room located in its serviced office building. The company operates in a region prone to floods and has invested in a market-leading backup solution. Although their backup software is well configured and works well, the backups taken by the IT staff are stored on-site and the company has no strategy for coping with or recovering from disaster.

Recent outages of just a few hours have shown how crucial the company's IT systems are to its business. It can manage for a couple of days, but a crashed disk or software corruption could easily mean no access to customer information in the CRM system and no way of processing orders or generating and chasing invoices. Email records are similarly vulnerable, with any sustained loss of IT likely to result in the company going out of business.
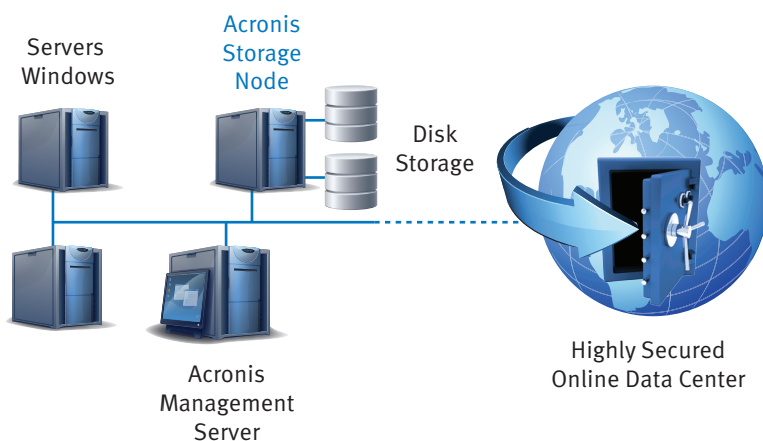
Challenges:

- Company located in flood zone only has on-premise backups, which puts it at risk to losing critical data in the event of a major disaster.

- It's too expensive to invest in a second office for backup servers or renting servers in a secure datacenter.

Solution:

- Acronis® Backup & Recovery™ 11 Advanced Server

- Acronis® Backup & Recovery™ 11 Online

Key Benefits:

- Acronis Backup & Recovery™ 11 Online provides cloud-based data protection by storing files and system image backups at a remote, secure location to give Windows servers and workstations the additional protection they need against disaster or theft. No additional hardware investment is required.

Servers Windows

Acronis Storage Node

Disk Storage

Acronis Management Server

Highly Secured Online Data Center

Implementation:

Acronis Backup & Recovery 11 Online is deployed alongside the Acronis Backup & Recovery 11 Advanced Server on-premise backup solution to send image backups of business-critical systems to secure online storage, all from a single management console.

No expensive mirroring software is required and the backups are readily available online. Moreover, in the event of a major system outage, the company can opt to have its backups delivered on disk rather than over the Internet with Acronis' Large Scale Recovery service.

Results:

The online backup facilities were used as a geographically dispersed bunker site that is distant from the flood plain in which the company's premise exists. This ensured that a backup copy of the company's information would be protected and available even if the primary server location and on-premise backup were damaged or destroyed by a flood.

The company used Acronis' Initial Seeding service to establish their first full backup at the online site, by sending disks to the online facility which were then loaded locally. This saved considerable initial backup transfer time because the company only leased relatively slow network connections and the initial full backup would have taken weeks to accomplish. Instead, with Initial Seeding, the first live backup was loaded and available online within hours.

During on-going operations, the company sent incremental backups to Acronis Online Storage. The company's network connections were readily able to handle the network traffic because the database updates were relatively small compared to the full size of their databases. The company also maintained near-line disk-2-disk (D2D) and disk-2-disk-tape (D2D2T) backups which could be protected and re-initiated from the Online backups in the event that a non-destructive disaster, such as data corruption, infiltrated the on-premise databases.

The on-premise databases were simply restored to a state prior to the corruption from the online backups – if the corruption had been identified before the corrupt data backed up to the online archive. The online backups used a Continuous Protection scheme and could be rolled back to an earlier version. In the event that all of the on-premise data center resources and backups were damaged and destroyed, the company's Business Continuance plan anticipated using Acronis' Large Scale Recovery service. Large Scale Recovery entails repopulating a new set of disks from the online backups, at the online backup facility, and then sending the mountable disks to the restored data center or a new data center to initiate recovery.

The Large Scale Recovery service adds an extra layer of protection for vital IT resources by protecting against a site-specific destructive disaster such as a flood, tornado, earthquake or hurricane. Under those circumstances, re-seeding a full data center from online backups across a network would probably be too bandwidth-intensive and time consuming. Instead, with Large Scale Recovery, the new disk drives are populated at the Online backup facility and shipped to the on-premise data center for the recovery process.

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