

“We’re backing up all our servers, from VMware virtual servers to physical Microsoft and Linux servers. SEP sesam allows us to use one software for every platform. No other software we looked at came close.”

Tim Ashman
IT Manager



Andersen Construction Company

Situation

Andersen Construction Company was using an older version of CA ARCserve backup software, which proved inadequate and the amount of time it took to complete backups was creating problems with the company’s operations. “The overhead in time and complexity of running the backups for the remote locations and headquarters demanded we seek a new solution; one that could back up our legacy applications as well as run on Novell’s newest OES platform along with VMware and our Lefthand Networks SAN solution from HP,” recalls Tim Ashman, IT Manager for Andersen Construction.

CHALLENGE

“ARCserve was deficient and I thought it was time to find a new solution so I turned to Novell for recommendations. We were given several recommendations including Acronis. Acronis, however, could only do a fraction of what they promised. After six months of trying to use Acronis and dealing with their support engineers, we both gave up. We needed a newer, more functional product that would work with a multitude of new operating systems, VMware and legacy products. So after half a year we still weren’t any closer to a solution,” stated Ashman.

“We had spoken with colleagues in our field as well as engineers from Novell and were unable to find a product that would be both an improvement and economically viable. Most of all, it needed to be implemented easily. The conversion to the new backup system had to be performed quickly, easily and provide no disruption to our environment as we transitioned from our outdated solution. Originally, Novell had recommended ARCserve and Acronis as possible solutions. We already knew that ARCserve couldn’t do the job and I’ve already described our experience with Acronis. That was a sixth month exercise in futility,” reported Ashman. “We contacted Novell again and they finally gave us the name of SEP sesam. I wish they had given us SEP’s name first,” emphasized Ashman.

ENVIRONMENT

“We had several types of files and databases that we needed to backup and the old ARCserve solution and even newer backup packages we tested didn’t meet our requirements. We have a VMware environment attached to a Lefthand iSCSI SAN.

SEP Software Corp. is the premier technology leader providing standardized and high performance backup and disaster recovery solutions for professional IT environments of all sizes. Its flagship product, SEP sesam, delivers seamless solutions to corporations' backup requirements.

SEP sesam ensures that data security for both virtual and physical environments can be easily and cost-effectively achieved. SEP sesam is the ultimate expression of German engineering and attention to detail. Design and programming originate from our German offices in Weyarn, near Munich, where overall performance and reliability are our utmost concern.

ABOUT ANDERSON CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

CONT'D.

Our environment includes three Novell OES servers and two Novell NetWare 6.5 servers along with five servers running Novell eDirectory. We also have various other SLES 10 web servers and two older SUSE 9.x servers. I also run two GroupWise 8.x servers, one on Linux and one on NetWare. For operations software, we run an Oracle 10gr2 three-tiered web app. This consists of three Windows 2003 servers and one Oracle Linux (Red Hat) database server. Most of our hardware is IBM rack-mounted blade servers," Ashman reported.

SOLUTION

"We chose SEP sesam for the simple reason that it provides a breadth of support that no one in the industry can compete with. The initial installation was straightforward and we had working backups within a few hours. The more complex backup implementation took a few more hours and we worked closely with SEP support to accomplish everything we needed. I would say as documentation improves, they are becoming a force to be reckoned with in the market. No other product comes close to speed or functionality at the price point. I needed a new and improved solution that supported our environment and didn't find SEP sesam's costs out of line. It is a good product," stated Ashman.

RESULTS

"Our backup window decreased dramatically and I have been able to add many new backup tasks that were not available with our old product set. All in all, I would have to say that I'm very satisfied with the new backup environment using SEP sesam," said Ashman.

"We found the SEP Software support staff friendly, helpful and knowledgeable. The support tech at SEP helped us through a complex setup in what I would consider record time, especially compared to Acronis, who couldn't get anything working," he reported.

"We continue to expand our operations and add to the number of servers that we back up. One of the strongest points to using SEP sesam is how easy it is to add a new client to our environment. Three clicks and adding the server name and the backup is ready to run," reports Ashman.

Andersen Construction is based in Portland, Oregon with satellite offices in Washington and Idaho. They specialize in construction management and general contracting for technically challenging projects. Owners, architects and engineers know the company as a world-class builder who can be trusted to deliver quality on time and on budget. Andersen Construction is a company whose people understand the power of collaboration, teamwork and leverage that power to overcome challenges and accomplish great things. For more information, visit www.andersen-const.com