"SEP sesam exceeded all of our requirements and since we installed SEP, there has not been one single failure of a backup job and we have been able to complete every single restore very easily. We are very satisfied."

Wolfgang Lux
IT Director

German Institute of Human Nutrition

Situation

The German Institute of Human Nutrition (DIfE) conducts experimental and clinical research in the field of nutrition and health. Their mission is to understand the source of nutrition-dependent diseases on a molecular basis and develop new strategies for prevention, treatment and dietary guidelines.

DIfE conducts research in many areas including pharmacology, clinical nutrition, fat cell development and many more.

IT Director of DIfE, Wolfgang Lux, stated that "SEP sesam is one of the few products that is able to back up our entire IT environment, which contains Novell GroupWise and Novell file servers."

CHALLENGE

"A large part of our research involves performing complex studies and the analysis of our research data is often expensive and time consuming," stated Wolfgang Lux. Therefore, a reliable backup solution is essential for DIfE's ability to function. Lux explained, "We must protect ourselves from common incidents like storage media failures due to a power blackout or user errors like unintentionally deleting a file or saving the wrong version, which could endanger the availability of our data. In addition, we must also protect ourselves against more malicious incidents like cybercrime, computer viruses, theft and Trojan horses, which all play a vital role in our data security."

DIfE needed a reliable solution for fast, efficient data backup and recovery with automatic migration capabilities to perform regular backups in a small time frame. DIfE's decisive factor for choosing a new backup solution was performance. "We produce a huge amount of data on a daily basis and needed a reliable backup solution that could backup large amounts of valuable research data rather quickly," explained Lux.

DIfE has a mix of physical and virtual environments. They use multiple platforms including Windows and Linux, which includes a Linux file-server-cluster. Their infrastructure includes a number of databases including NetIQ eDirectory and NetIQ Identity Manager while Novell GroupWise and Novell Vibe are used as their email platforms. DIfE backs up their data to disk and to tape using a 50 Slot Autoloader.

SEP Software Corp.

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.

SOLUTION

Recommended to DIfE by araneaNET – an external service provider for DIfE's Novell infrastructure with GroupWise, Filr, Vibe, ZENworks and NetIQ Identity Manager – SEP sesam prevailed against the competition. After testing SEP sesam, DIfE was confident with their selection and began planning the implementation of the software. With the help of araneaNET, DIfE's IT Department quickly and efficiently managed the complete installation and configuration process of SEP sesam.

"SEP sesam exceeded all of our requirements and easily performed all of our backup and recovery jobs. Since we installed SEP sesam, there has not been one single failure of a backup job and we have been able to complete every single restore very easily. We are very satisfied," said Lux.

RESULTS

Today, the German Institute of Human Nutrition relies on SEP sesam for backup and recovery of all mission-critical data. In the past, accidental data deletion, which would occur from time to time, was a large concern for the DIfE's IT staff. However, since the implementation of SEP sesam, these concerns have been wiped away. SEP sesam has been able to recover all lost data each and every time.

"My biggest nightmares were the thought of a lightning strike or damage from a fire or water in the server room. If any of the backups had failed in these scenarios, we would have had a real disaster. Years of research data could have been lost in an instant," Lux explained. But thanks to SEP sesam, Lux's mind can rest easy. "My worries over data loss have been eliminated due to our SEP sesam backup strategy. We now back up to disk, to tape and to a remote, secure location."

In the future, the German Institute of Human Nutrition plans to expand the SEP sesam footprint to include long-term archiving of raw research data.

ABOUT DIfE

The mission of the German Institute of Human Nutrition (DIfE) is to conduct experimental and clinical research in the field of nutrition and health, with the aim of understanding the molecular basis of nutrition-dependent diseases, and of developing new strategies for prevention, treatment, and nutritional recommendations. Scientists at the DIfE pursue these scientific goals by interdisciplinary cooperation comprising a broad spectrum of experimental and epidemiological methods. A particular focus of the institute is research on the most important diseases at present, i.e., obesity, diabetes, and cancer, whose development may involve nutrition-dependent factors. DIfE is an independent foundation and member of the Leibniz Association, an alliance of scientific institutions.