

vRANGER PRO™ SOLVES BACKUP FOR BANK WITH HIGH VOLUME, SMALL STAFF

vizioncore™

THE SITUATION

The need to support a variety of storage systems and back up millions of processed check images limited McHenry Savings Bank's virtual backup and recovery options. The company needed a highly reliable solution that its two-person IT staff could manage easily.

THE SOLUTION

vRanger Pro from Vizioncore integrates with McHenry Savings Bank's VMware infrastructure and connects with SCSI and NAS to provide comprehensive data and systems backup.

THE RESULTS

"In the past, we always just purchased redundant hardware for backup and business continuity. Finding a backup solution that didn't require more hardware purchases saved us a lot of money. With Vizioncore, our backup cost is well less than half of what it would be with a hardware-based solution."

Derek Niedermayer
Network Support Supervisor
McHenry Savings Bank

THE SITUATION

McHenry Savings Bank has the same strict data protection, system reliability and regulatory requirements as other banks. But unlike most financial institutions, McHenry Savings Bank has just two IT staffers to manage all systems and support the bank's 110 employees. When the full-service bank, which has five locations in McHenry County, northwest of Chicago, Ill., needed to upgrade its capabilities to provide comprehensive backup for all of its systems and data, it needed a solution that would not overextend its IT staff and resources.

McHenry Savings Bank policy requires systems to be up within four hours of a failure. The bank also needs to back up all its data, including the image of every single check it processes. While the nightly required backup of about 500 GB is well within the capabilities of many backup solutions, the ability to efficiently back up high volumes of checks and other images is not.

"Most of the solutions we found don't back up millions of files," said Derek Niedermayer, McHenry Savings Bank's network support supervisor. "We looked at a lot of systems, and most of them required us to buy redundant hardware. When the cost started reaching \$30,000 or \$40,000 we stopped looking, because we don't have the resources to justify that."

Frustrated with his hardware-based backup options, Niedermayer began investigating virtualization to provide backup and support the four-hour recovery time objective (RTO) for system failures. McHenry Savings Bank had virtualized two years earlier to slow its IT growth and make systems more manageable. The bank managed a 4:1 server consolidation using VMware Infrastructure 3 with ESX Server 3 and VirtualCenter 2 as its platform. Now just three physical servers, plus a combination of SCSI and NAS storage host all the bank's operating systems and applications, which include Novell NetWare 6.5, multiple Windows operating systems, SQL Server 2000 and SQL Server 2000 Desktop Engine, Novell ZENworks 7 and DNS controllers.

Using VMs to back up this virtual environment could reduce or eliminate McHenry Savings Bank's hardware requirements, but created a new set of challenges. Because all virtualized systems reside on only three physical hosts, VMs move frequently to

support load balancing. A virtual backup solution would thus have to be able to support movement while maintaining compatibility with the full range of McHenry's operating systems and applications.

"Our biggest hurdle was finding a product that could back up our NetWare systems," said Niedermayer. "The ability to attach to pretty much any data store and back it up was also huge, since we use a mix of SCSI and network-attached storage."

THE SOLUTION

McHenry Savings Bank decided virtualization was its best option for backup and recovery, and identified vRanger Pro from Vizioncore as the best fit for its operations and budget. vRanger Pro integrates tightly with the VMware infrastructure, supports all the operating systems, applications and storage protocols McHenry Savings Bank uses, and has several features that save time for the busy IT staff.

"Vizioncore's ease of use really stood out," said Niedermayer. "vRanger Pro is one of those products that you don't need to open the manual to use. That means a lot to us, since just two people do all the IT management."

vRanger Pro gives the option of doing full or differential backups. Differentials execute faster because they only back up memory blocks that have changed since the last backup. Niedermayer does differential backup nightly, and automatically schedules a weekly full system backup for Sunday nights, when the most network bandwidth is available. vRanger Pro compresses data as it backs it up. Niedermayer reports the bank averages nearly 2:1 compression ration, with the ratio for data systems much higher than that of check images.

vRanger Pro automatically captures all data and virtual machine settings, so it can quickly restore the complete, configured virtual machine, not just data, to any available hardware that can run ESX. Vizioncore's vRanger Pro compresses VMDK and .DSK files and sends them to the user's choice of a Windows, Linux or VMware ESX Server. vRanger Pro is also VMotion-aware, which means it

automatically captures and backs up VMs that move among virtual hosts. The feature was important to McHenry Savings Bank because its virtual environment is dynamic.

"Another great thing about vRanger Pro is that I don't have to install an agent in every VM I want to back up. vRanger Pro is native and doesn't really care what OS is running, and doesn't need to contact Virtual Center to back up. Other solutions we looked at all required agents," said Niedermayer.

THE RESULTS

Implementation and operating cost savings sold McHenry Savings Bank on the virtualized approach to backup. Choosing Vizioncore provided the ROI.

"In the past, we always just purchased redundant hardware to get the backup and business continuity capabilities we needed. Finding a backup solution that didn't require more hardware purchases saved us a lot of money. With Vizioncore, our backup cost is well less than half of what it would be with a hardware-based solution," Niedermayer said.

Using vRanger Pro for system backup also enabled process changes that save time and money for McHenry Savings Bank every day. For example, the bank previously backed up to tape, then used couriers to transport the backups to a safe location.

"We eliminated the tape system, and there was a hardware savings right there. Plus, we no longer have to pay couriers, which saves us around \$600 per month," said Niedermayer. "There's also been a big time savings. I no longer have to sort and review tapes. When I come in I just review the log I get from vRanger Pro, which is great because it saves me an hour or two each morning."

The time savings are especially valuable for McHenry Savings Bank, with its small staff and much larger competition. Virtualization provides the flexibility that helps the bank stay competitive against much larger institutions, and vRanger Pro provides the protection to back it up.



US Toll Free 866 260-2483
International +1 847 589-2222
www.vizioncore.com
sales@vizioncore.com

