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Scott Hardesty  
Technology Coordinator



## Spearfish School District

### Situation

The Spearfish School District of South Dakota was using Symantec Backup Exec 9 as their backup solution. Unfortunately, it was slow, unreliable and strained the District's valuable hardware, network and manpower resources. Scott Hardesty, the District's Technology Coordinator in charge of maintaining Backup Exec, would have to go to the office on weekends in order to reset backups that did not run properly. Additionally, when the Backup Exec software did run, it would have frequent errors that resulted in lost data and took over 24 hours per 500-gigabyte server to complete.

#### CONT'D.

Hardesty was using Rsync to replicate data stored on HP MSAs. This was not causing problems like the backup software was, but it was a separate component that needed to be maintained. Spearfish School District had been using a troublesome backup solution for too long and was ready to make a change.

#### CHALLENGE

"Backup Exec had become a liability," Hardesty communicated to SEP representatives. "It's like insurance, you never know how good it is until you need it and we weren't getting the bang for our buck on that deal." The District was also in the process of moving to OES Linux from Novell NetWare, which Symantec no longer supported. In turn, Hardesty decided the District needed a faster and more dependable backup solution.

#### ENVIRONMENT

The District's backup system consisted of two 500-gigabyte HP servers and many other physical and virtual servers running a variety of operating systems. Hardesty was in need of a compatible backup solution for a dynamic setting composed of HP hardware, Microsoft, OES Linux, Novell, VMware, GroupWise, MS SQL and My SQL databases. Most of the data was being saved on the HP MSAs.

SEP Software is the premier technology leader providing high performance backup and disaster recovery solutions for professional IT infrastructures of all sizes. SEP delivers seamless solutions with one central interface to easily manage backups for heterogeneous environments.

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

## SOLUTION

There was some concern about switching to a new backup solution without losing any data, but with the assistance of SEP's support staff, the transition to SEP was extremely smooth. With one call from Hardesty to SEP's support staff, the District's new backup solution was up and running the same day. "SEP is very user friendly. It's been extremely simple," explained Hardesty.

SEP proved compatible with every single component of the District's environment. In addition, SEP fulfilled the District's data replication needs. "It's nice to have one product doing everything instead of trying to manage different applications from different vendors. I have HP MSAs where our data is stored which was replicated off-site using Rsync. Now, with SEP's remote server capabilities, we can perform all tasks with a single solution, which is very beneficial to our company," Hardesty expressed.

## RESULTS

SEP decreased the District's backup time by 87.5%. "I had no idea backup software was able to perform that fast. With Backup Exec, I had to split my backup jobs between two servers just to get a 24-hour backup window and now I have one SEP server doing the same full backup in 6 hours. SEP is 8 times faster," Hardesty explained.

After spending countless weekends monitoring backup progress and failures, SEP's email backup notification function, letting him know when backups complete, is Hardesty's favorite feature. Hardesty went on to claim, "I am happy we made the move from Backup Exec. I didn't realize there was a product that worked as well as SEP. Good move. We schedule backup jobs to run and they always run successfully. I don't have to touch it. SEP's support staff has been great. I've had my questions answered in the same day, which is a vast improvement, considering Symantec had no medium for support apart from their website," Hardesty informed SEP representatives. "We are completely satisfied with SEP and our backup solution."

## FUTURE PLANS

Spearfish School District's network is continually expanding services and plans to purchase additional database licenses and more VMware servers. SEP is sure to be an integral part of this expansion. After working with SEP, Hardesty would recommend SEP to anyone seeking a fast and reliable backup solution.