TransGrid decreases data recovery time by 400 percent

IBM Tivoli Storage Manager Suite for Unified Recovery offering optimizes storage management

Overview

Inefficient data backup and recovery

To reduce costs and increase efficiencies, TransGrid sought to consolidate its discrete data backup and storage environments onto a single solution.

Supporting convergence

TransGrid deployed IBM® Tivoli® Storage Manager Suite for Unified Recovery products to centralize data sharing and asset management and to automate processes.

Optimizing storage management

TransGrid reduced data recovery time by 400 percent and its backup window by nearly 50 percent.

Solution Components

Software
- IBM® Tivoli® Storage Manager Suite for Unified Recovery
- IBM Storwize® V7000

IBM Business partner
- Meridian IT

TransGrid owns and operates the high-voltage electricity transmission network in the Australian state of New South Wales. It operates a network of more than 12,000 kilometers of transmission lines with ratings up to 500 kV of electricity, connecting generators of electricity to retail distributors. The company employs approximately 1,100 people.

Challenge

TransGrid outsources a majority of its IT support to a third-party provider, including support of its data storage and backup environments, which contain in excess of 400 TB of data. For a decade, the company managed the storage environment using two separate systems: IBM Tivoli Storage Manager software and a discrete tape-driven database backup solution, which contributed to high management costs and complexity. Likewise, the dual environment presented issues related to data duplication, resulting in capacity challenges, 6-hour backup windows and recovery times of more than one hour.

According to Stuart Barber, ICT operations manager for TransGrid, the company faced an additional operational hurdle. It needed to update its Tivoli storage solution, which would necessitate a separate upgrade to its database backup solution. "Given that, and all the challenges related to space management and duplication, it made sense to consolidate our storage and backup infrastructure onto a single solution that would allow us also to move from tape to disk."

Solution

After evaluating many products, the TransGrid IT architectural team deployed the IBM Tivoli Storage Manager Suite for Unified Recovery offering, a single platform for data backup and recovery. The company simultaneously implemented an IBM Storwize® V7000 unit, a virtualized software-defined storage system designed to consolidate workloads onto a single storage system for easier management.

"IBM, working with its partner Meridian IT, had packed up the Tivoli solution in a compelling way to provide a storage infrastructure that conforms with the virtualized Storwize V7000 system and that includes the latest upgrades to Tivoli Storage Manager with a new capacity based pricing," says Barber. "We've achieved a deduplication ratio of 5:1 and our recovery times have decreased by 400 percent, and with the incremental forever backup capabilities, we've shortened our backup window by almost 50 percent. We've also moved from tape to disk."

Barber points out that the move to a single backup and restore system and a central management console has also produced operational savings in the form of reduced infrastructure costs and less demand on an outsourced service provider for system management. "It provides them with an easier, more effective way of managing backups and all of the virtual environments," says Barber. "For us, we've saved operationally and we've given ourselves a better, quicker time to recover. The Tivoli unified recovery suite is a complete solution."

Benefits

- Decreases data recovery time by 400 percent
- Shortens the data backup window by nearly 50 percent
- Eases system management by consolidating backup and recovery on a single system

For more information

To learn more about the IBM Tivoli Storage Manager Suite for Unified Recovery solution, please contact your IBM marketing representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit the following website:
ibm.com/software/tivoli

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— Stuart Barber, information and communications technology operations manager, TransGrid

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