REAL-TIME BACKUPS

Navellier Feeling Secure With Network Integrity

LiveVault frees Navellier from "manual labor"

BY CRAIG McGUIRE

D ata replication and protection are mundane, thankless tasks that you usually don't hear much about. That is, until your system crashes and the panic and mayhem reign in the back office. Officials at Reno, Nev.-based investment adviser Navellier & Associates think they've found an easier and more secure alternative for backing up their NT environment. That is, if Network Integrity's LiveVault lives up to expectations.

Following two beta tests of LiveVault—a real-time tape-based backup solution for Windows NT servers—officials at Navellier recently flipped the switch and brought the fledgling product into full production. Initially impressed with the way it automated a battery of previously manual backups of several of the firm's NT servers, officials at Navellier also plan to use LiveVault to support the firm's Sybase SQL database.

"It used to be we were in high maintenance mode," says Patrick Seeber, director of information systems at Navellier. "I haven't had to touch this thing for two weeks."

LiveVault for Windows NT integrates real-time, byte-level replication with an intelligent, self-managing storage archive that includes online disk and near-line tape library storage. Applications include real-time backups for 24-by-7 environments, protection against the loss of intra-day data updates, unattended branch office and remote facility data protection, and rapid disaster recovery.

"We're backing up application directories and home directories now," says Seeber. "My SQL guy just got back into town, so now we're going to do active SQL database backups. That's what we're doing now, but eventually we'll also use LiveVault to back up [Microsoft] Exchange as well."

Network Integrity President and CEO John Butler adds, "They've been testing it with SQL and are planning to port all of their customer contact management system to SQL, and part of that plan is to use LiveVault to back it up."

Navellier is currently testing the second beta version of LiveVault. "December we got in our first beta and had a couple

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of challenges with it," says Seeber. "They upgraded us in January to beta-two and it's gone flawless. As far I know, this will be in full production at the end of the month."

Navellier officials considered other options before giving Network Integrity the nod. "There's a backup feature to NT, but it's not easy to automate," says Seeber. "This is actually working with a 280 gigabyte tape library where we install seven tapes and just let it run. When a tape is full, it even tells us what to label it and where to store it. It's brainless." ●