



SUCCESS STORIES

LE FIGARO RELIES ON SYNCSORT FOR UNIFYING AND ACCELERATING ITS BACKUPS ON DISKS

“We have clearly improved in speed. We are therefore able to increase the backup operations, which was previously impossible because of the length of the process. And we consume much less bandwidth, which provides additional comfort to our users.”

GILLES HERNANDEZ IT Manager, Le Figaro

LE FIGARO

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Location Paris, France

Industry Publishing

Customer Profile

Owned by Groupe Industriel Marcel Dassault, Le Figaro publishes newspapers and magazines, including *Le Figaro* and *Le Figaro Magazine*, and maintains an advertising sales division. *Le Figaro* is one of France's leading morning newspapers, with a circulation of 342,445 as of 2005.

The Challenge

- Upgrading, homogenizing, and extending the scope of the backup solution
- Handling the explosion of volumes of data
- Strengthening data security
- Initiating the Business Continuity Plan (Business Resumption Plan—BRP)

The Solution

NetApp FAS960C, NetApp NearStore® R200, and Syncsort Backup Express increase speed of backup operations integrating with all of the company's operating environments.

Benefits

- Productivity improvements
- Cost reductions
- Securing data
- Acceleration of restoration intervals

EXCEPTIONAL GROWTH OF DATA

As a major player in the French press, Groupe Figaro publishes 12 titles, including the first national daily, *Le Figaro*, created in 1826, and magazines such as *Le Figaro Magazine* and *Le Figaro Madame*. Owned by Marcel Dassault industrial group, it employs 1,400 colleagues and achieves a revenue of 500 million euros.

Confronted with an explosion of volumes of data and also a multiplication of the sources (messaging, production system, professional applications, etc.), Le Figaro implemented in 1998 a centralized storage system based on Network Appliance™ technology (F720). At that time, only data coming from the daily newspaper production system was considered. But the company was soon confronted with problems due to size and integration of Macintosh® volumes.

“Little by little the volumes of data to be backed up multiplied,” said Gilles Hernandez, IT manager for Le Figaro. “From about 256GB before 1998 we have arrived at 5TB today. In between, we integrated into our backup procedures our new editorial system (more than 1TB of data) dedicated to the managing of the daily paper, then the magazines and photo library, and, finally, our accounting system.”

Beyond the problem of capacity, the intervals for backup grew longer. “We had to prepare for the future and were aware that the exponential growth of the data volume was dangerously extending our backup intervals. In parallel, we were seeking to make the backups more reliable and to simplify the interfaces to improve speed,” said Hernandez. “Further, we were experiencing some difficulties for backing up specific elements: a Windows Storage 2003 server (3TB photo library) and a Macintosh-emulation server (page layout) whose constantly growing volumes slowed the overall backup process. Finally, our management asked us to begin considering implementing a Business Resumption Plan (BRP).”

NETAPP + SYNCSORT FOR A UNIFIED BACKUP SOLUTION

In 2004, Le Figaro decided to migrate its old bays to two clustered NetApp FAS960C appliances, for storing both the production data and data generated by management and office applications. This new step made it possible to reduce the number of servers operated (the client stations were directly connected to the NetApp storage) while rationalizing the information system, but did not resolve the problem linked to the growth of the backup intervals.



"We were satisfied with the new NetApp solution and the SnapVault software, but they did not cover the entirety of our servers, which meant there was a need for other software for backing up our Solaris, Linux, and UNIX servers," said Hernandez. "Thus we went in search of the solution capable of completing our backup processes and also responding to our new needs (reliability, acceleration of the intervals, and implementing the BRP). We discovered Syncsort, which offered the only software on the market meeting all of our requirements."

"Backup Express is the only block-mode incremental backup solution integrating rapid restoration options and image management, all while handling all OS combinations (UNIX, Windows, NetWare/OES, Linux, and NDMP/NAS) equally," explained Chantal Saliou, general director of Syncsort France. "By taking good advantage of our technological partnership with Network Appliance, the solution integrates perfectly with SnapVault for offering an administrative interface that makes the search for files easier. Through this type of technology, the old backup strategies—in particular, tapes—are soon going to be as obsolete as punch cards."

Capable of driving the NetApp/SnapVault backups, Backup Express additionally provides a new "Bare Metal Restore" function that makes it possible to start a failed server using a CD and quickly start the reinstallation of the complete system with the help of its backup image. "This functionality makes it possible for us to restore all of a server very quickly," adds Hernandez.

EVOLVABILITY, INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY, AND SECURITY

The Syncsort software was implemented in three days by the teams from Syncsort and APX Synstar. A new NetApp NearStore R200 bay was integrated in the backup service by direct connection with Syncsort.

"It is difficult to compare the old system with the new one because they involve completely different technologies and volumes. However, we have clearly improved in speed. We are therefore able to increase the backup operations, which was previously impossible because of the length of the process. And we consume much less bandwidth, which provides additional comfort to our users," said Hernandez. "By targeting only the blocks that were modified, the Syncsort incremental backup considerably reduces the intervals. For example, out of 1TB of data, only the 2 or 3GB that were modified are backed up. Finally, Syncsort enables us to restore a file as it was at a prior date (over a 30-day retention period)."

The restoration process was broadly improved and accelerated in particular through a simple and intuitive search interface. "This friendliness is fundamental: when someone asks you to do an emergency restoration of data, you don't have the time to dive into the documentation to launch the operation," added Hernandez. "Previously, restoration in NDMP mode was very long and had to involve the intervention of an IT technician. Today, since it's still directly linked to the storage, users can perform the search themselves."

At the same time the company benefits from indirect advantages: abandoning tape technologies generates savings and the backup process has been rationalized.

Groupe Figaro now has a homogeneous backup and restoration solution on which to lay the first brick of its Business Resumption Plan. "We have secured the data for all of our servers and the users have 'personal' spaces within the storage. The images for the servers and operating systems are also contained in the bays, which, because of a redundancy mechanism, are totally secured in case of incident," concludes Hernandez. "We are perfectly equipped for the years to come, having a comfortable and evolvable backup capacity. The following step for implementing our BRP will consist of choosing a remote site for locating the NetApp NearStore R200 bay and organizing recording on tape, to further increase our security."

ABOUT NETWORK APPLIANCE

Network Appliance is a leading provider of innovative data management solutions that simplify the complexity of storing, managing, protecting, and retaining enterprise data. Market leaders around the world choose NetApp to help them reduce cost, minimize risk, and adapt to change. For solutions that deliver unmatched simplicity and value, visit us on the Web at www.netapp.com.

SOLUTION COMPONENTS

NetApp FAS960C

NetApp NearStore R200

NetApp SnapVault®

Windows®, Solaris™, UNIX®, and Linux® servers

