

CASE STUDY

Micro Matic



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Eddie Palmer,
System Administrator,
Micro Matic

ORGANIZATION

Micro Matic

INDUSTRY

Beverage equipment distribution

IT ENVIRONMENT

Providing storage for four major distribution centers and disk-to-disk backup for data in each location.

CHALLENGE

- Reduce the storage management burden of storage sprawl
- Eliminate use of physical tape
- Simplify storage management
- Improve scalability and reduce costs

SOLUTION

- Gridstore Scale-Out NAS supported by 6 1TB nodes
- Using Symantec Backup Exec

BENEFITS

- Elimination of physical tapes
- Compatibility with existing infrastructure
- Unlimited scalability
- Improved reliability

Micro Matic Streamlines Backup Practices while Eliminating the High Cost and Complexity of Physical Tapes with Gridstore Scale-Out NAS

CUSTOMER OVERVIEW:

Micro Matic is a major supplier of draught beer equipment in over 120 countries throughout the world. It serves the U.S. market through four strategically located distribution centers in west, central, southeast and northeast locations. These centers provide just-in-time delivery as a daily achievement. The company is committed to continually seek better ways to deliver quality draught beer and excellence in customer service.

Whether it is revolutionizing the keg beer or chemical industry with safety features, material use or a disposable plastic valve system, ground breaking national education programs or embedding multi-media into draught beer towers, the Micro Matic name is synonymous with leadership.

BUSINESS CHALLENGE:

As a fast moving, data intensive business, Micro Matic was soon faced with the challenge of managing over 5TB of data. Its storage was sprawled over multiple data centers in Irvine, Calif. and Florida and all IT support for other remote offices needed to be performed remotely. As the company continued to grow, it found that it was quickly running out of storage space. Video training files, engineering drawings and user desktop files were consuming incrementally growing volumes of storage capacity and a solution for more efficient management was needed.

"We quickly found ourselves managing over 5TB of data," said Eddie Palmer, system administrator, Micro Matic. "NAS was a practical approach to solving the problem, but traditional NAS would have been too expensive and would have continued to perpetuate our storage sprawl problem. We wanted to be proactive so that we could be prepared for our future growth. We wanted to be able to expand as needed without having to overprovision our storage."

Micro Matic knew it needed to optimize its storage infrastructure in a way that would be simple to install and manage, while giving them the flexibility to scale as growth dictated. It also wanted a solution that would work with their existing infrastructure, supporting its Symantec Backup Exec backup software while eliminating the need for physical tape which was continuing to be a growing expense drain.



SOLUTION:

To solve its storage challenges, Micro Matic considered traditional siloed NAS solutions, the use of more external USB drives, and the option of adding external drives to its existing infrastructure. Yet, each option didn't deliver the ultimate benefits Micro Matic was seeking.

"We didn't want a band-aid approach that would lead to a string of management complexity, risk and cost," said Palmer. "We needed a solution that was simple to install, manage and scale. That's when we discovered Gridstore."

With Gridstore Scale-Out NAS, Micro Matic is able to combine the simplicity, convenience and affordability of NAS with the scalability, performance and reliability of enterprise-class storage. As a result, the beverage distribution company can achieve a powerful NAS storage grid that eliminates storage sprawl and multiple single points of failure while benefiting from a next-generation storage offering at half the cost of standalone NAS solutions.

RESULTS:

After selecting Gridstore Scale-Out NAS, Micro Matic is pleased to have gone to a completely disk-based backup process which has streamlined backup practices while eliminating the high cost of physical tape.

Micro Matic has seen the following benefits as a result of deploying Gridstore Scale-out NAS:

- Simple building blocks of storage that simplify management through an integrated Microsoft Management Console to streamline storage management in a multi-server environment
- Incremental capacity that can be added on a Pay-as-you-Grow basis eliminates the need to overprovision storage resources and ensures backups never fail due to capacity limitations
- High performance solution that leverages parallel I/O to eliminates performance bottlenecks and scales to meet the growing demands of backup processes from multiple server environments.
- NonStop reliability - protection that goes beyond RAID protection of 1 or 2 disks. Micro Matic's back up target can suffer multiple node failures without impacting backup processes or the availability of data. Gridstore makes it easy to recover from failed hardware by simply attaching a new storage node to the network.

"With Gridstore it was literally 'set it and forget it,'" said Palmer. "Backups just work and there is no worry about tapes. It works completely with our existing infrastructure, except now we are completely disk-based for our backups which saves us both time and money."



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ABOUT GRIDSTORE

Gridstore is the leader in scale-out Network Attached Storage (NAS) products. The Gridstore solution provides unlimited storage capacity and reliability at a fraction of the cost of traditional storage solutions. Gridstore is designed for Small to Mid-sized businesses and Managed Service Providers who struggle with the risk, cost and complexity of storage sprawl and who need enterprise class storage without the cost and complexity. Founded in 2007, Gridstore is headquartered in Mountain View, Calif. and has development facilities in Dublin, Ireland. For more information, please visit: www.gridstore.com.