



“Our servers are critical to a truly satisfying customer experience. And because we work in a sensitive environment, we can’t afford to lose data or availability due to a disaster or disruption. By using Double-Take for Virtual Systems with VMware’s virtualization products, we can continue to work effectively and efficiently – even during a system crash or outage. We don’t miss a beat, which is crucial to our mission.”

— John Forelli, Vice President of IT
Borgata Hotel Casino and Spa

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Challenge

Prior to purchasing VMware ESX server and Double-Take®, Borgata Hotel Casino and Spa used physical servers to backup and restore entirely from tape. This traditional tape-only approach involved a complicated restore process and once-per-day backup. There was also high network usage during the tape backup and since the travel industry is a 24-7 business, it was difficult to find the “off hours” needed for a server to be backed up without using excessively more CPU and I/O, resulting in overall slower performance.

Solution

By using Double-Take on a VMware virtual infrastructure, Borgata is able to create cost-effective, simplified disaster recovery architectures, provide 24x7 application availability, and follow their daily contingency plan.

VMware at Work

- Double-Take for Windows

Deployment environment

- ESX Server on IBM X 3850
- VirtualCenter on X 3550
- IBM DS4800, NetApp FAS 3020 Storage
- Guest operating systems: Windows 2000, 2003

Borgata

Borgata Hotel Casino and Spa chose Double-Take from Double-Take Software due to its flexibility in different architectures, its seamless failover process, and the company’s solid relationship with VMware. Working with Double-Take Software, solutions integrator Champion Solutions Group and VMware, Borgata is able to create cost-effective, simplified disaster recovery architectures, provide 24x7 application availability, and follow their daily contingency plan.

Using VMware virtualization, Double Take can provide failover for all of these servers to one physical machine. The target server (running VMware ESX Server) is configured with four virtual machines – each running the appropriate Windows OS version and application version. During normal operation, the applications are in a “down” state, allowing Double-Take to replicate changes to the protected data to the virtual machines in real-time. At failover time, the appropriate application services are started within a corresponding virtual machine and Double-Take orchestrates the seamless redirection of users from the original production server to the standby server running within a virtual machine at the DR site. This allows the target to provide high availability for each of the protected servers without running the workloads on the same instance of Windows on the host.

Results

Today, Borgata Hotel Casino and Spa can ensure higher levels of application availability through automatic failover using joint solutions from Double-Take and VMware. They provide proven protection for Borgata’s business-critical application servers by leveraging real-time replication and virtualization technologies to create cost-effective, simplified disaster recovery architectures.

