"If your organization is already taking advantage of virtualization, then adding Site Recovery Manager to handle disaster recovery is a no-brainer."

— Jerry Wilkin
Senior Systems Administrator,
Dayton Superior Corporation

Dayton Superior Corporation

Dayton Superior is the leading North American provider of specialized products consumed in non-residential, concrete construction and the largest concrete forming and shoring rental company serving the domestic, non-residential construction market.

Faced with a data center that was running out of room, Dayton used VMware Infrastructure to virtualize its servers and reclaim space in its data center. Having addressed this initial IT challenge, Dayton then turned its eyes towards its disaster recovery needs. "We needed to ensure rapid recovery, but executing manual procedures wasn't going to meet our requirements," says Jerry Wilkin, senior systems administrator at Dayton. "There is a lot of potential for human error when you have to run through a dozen different manual steps to set up the storage and network for testing, start up applications in the right sequence, and clean up after the test."

With VMware vCenter Site Recovery Manager, Dayton has been able to automate this process and eliminate the complexity of managing and testing recovery plans.

"We have been very successful with our Site Recovery Manager tests," adds Wilkin. "When I click the 'test' button, Site Recovery Manager automatically fails over to our recovery site and powers up the virtual machines. The reliability that Site Recovery Manager provides is very impressive. I can't stress enough how beneficial it is to have a disaster recovery test that is automated and repeatable and consistent versus having to manually run through each of those steps."

Results

- Cut disaster recovery testing time in half. "It would take at least twice as long to run through the manual steps of getting the virtual machines running at the recovery site without Site Recovery Manager," says Wilkin.
- Save $20,000 on the cost of infrastructure for disaster recovery setup. "Deploying Site Recovery Manager was about $20,000 cheaper than purchasing duplicate physical hardware," says Wilkin. "And that's before we factor in the soft costs."
- Reduce total cost of ownership (TCO). "There might be other solutions that try to do what Site Recovery Manager does, but they are going to be more expensive and without the benefit of centralized management, so your TCO starts to go up," says Wilkin.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Challenge

Reduce time and costs associated with disaster recovery planning and testing

Solution

VMware vCenter Site Recovery Manager delivers manageable and automated disaster recovery.

VMware at Work

VMware vCenter Site Recovery Manager

- VMware ESX
- VMware vCenter Server
- VMware vMotion
- VMware Distributed Resource Scheduler (DRS)
- VMware High Availability (HA)

Deployment environment

- HP DL380 G5 servers attached to EMC Celerra NS350 SAN, replicated by Celerra Replicator
- Guest operating systems: Windows Server 2003, Windows Server 2008
- Virtualized Production Applications: Active Directory, Citrix servers, print servers, McAffee antivirus, Microsoft Exchange 2007
- Virtualized Pre-Production Applications: Microsoft Active Directory, Microsoft SQL Server 2005, Microsoft SharePoint Server 2007

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CUSTOMER SNAPSHOT

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