

## Kettering Health Network Data Protection Now Faster and More Reliable with HP Virtual TapeServer



Kettering Health Network  
Dayton, Ohio  
[www.khnetwork.org](http://www.khnetwork.org)

### Company Profile

- Healthcare vertical
- Six major hospitals, 50+ healthcare facilities
- 9,000+ employees, physicians and volunteers

### IT Profile

- Backup times exceeding backup window
- Labor intensive backup operations
- Slow, unreliable data restore operations
- Aging DLT and LTO tape drives

### Benefits

- Immediate 50% reduction in backup times
- “Lights out” backup and restore processes
- Fast file restores from disk
- Low acquisition, support and operating costs
- Easy to install and configure
- No impact to existing applications

*“HP Virtual TapeServer has fundamentally improved data protection operations at Kettering Health Network by introducing virtual tape into our data backup and restore systems. Installation and configuration of the appliance took less than one day and now data management processes run faster, more reliably and with less human intervention, dramatically improving system reliability and reducing operational costs.”*

**Dan Townsend – Kettering Health Network**

### Kettering Health Network, Dayton, Ohio

Kettering Health Network (KHN) is a comprehensive healthcare network in southwest Ohio with more than fifty facilities, including a medical arts college and six major hospitals. The mission of KHN is to improve the quality of life for people in the communities it serves through healthcare and education. As a major health care provider, KHN has rigorous data protection requirements that include maintenance of off-site disaster recovery (DR) operations and an ever-growing database of patient records that must comply with legislated regulations.

#### *The IT Challenge*

As data volumes grew and regulatory requirements became more complex, KHN faced challenges in managing data protection operations. Backup windows began encroaching on transaction-heavy times of the business day. Data replication at the disaster recovery site required frequent human intervention. Restore events from physical tape were slow and unreliable. Aging DLT and LTO tape drives also contributed to system unreliability. A decision needed to be made about upgrading the current system to increase performance or taking a new, innovative approach to improving backup and restore operations.

#### *The HP Virtual TapeServer Solution*

When Dan Townsend, Technical Integration Manager at KHN, saw the benefits provided by HP Virtual TapeServer (VTS), he realized a complete overhaul of data protection operations was the best long-term approach for KHN. HP VTS provided the following benefits:

#### *Faster Data Processing*

Switching from physical tape to virtual tape (disk) significantly decreased backup and restore processing times. “Backing up to disk instead of tape reduces processing time by over 50%,” said Townsend. “Restoring files from disk is now virtually instantaneous because we don’t have to read through an entire physical tape to locate and return a file.” All operations now complete well within the time allocated for the backup window.

#### *“Lights Out” Disaster Recovery Operations*

One of the project’s primary goals was to eliminate human intervention in all backup and restore processes. “We needed personnel at the DR site to load tapes and human intervention often was necessary at our main data center to ensure backups were completed correctly and on time. With VTS, our jobs run automatically, and we achieved our goal of end-to-end “lights out” data protection,” said Townsend.

### *Lower Operating Costs*

Storage requirements for data protection were greatly reduced using VTS. "Since data is compressed during processing and each virtual tape volume is fully utilized, the number of virtual tapes created during a backup was much less than the number of physical tapes that were previously required," added Townsend. KHN removed all but one of the physical tape drives previously used in their system, freeing up a significant amount of data center rack and floor space.

### *Improved Reliability*

KHN eliminated mechanical tape drives and tape media from their infrastructure and DR replication became automatic with fewer process interruptions and failures. "With VTS running our data protection jobs, we have dramatically improved system reliability," said Townsend.

In conclusion, Townsend states, "VTS has provided a new, forward-thinking approach to our data management processes. Our fast, reliable and cost effective backup and restore operations will adapt to changing data protection requirements for years to come."



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