

ShareLoader® Reduces Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's Backup Windows by More Than 50 Percent



The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Ocean Springs, MS
www.gsmfc.org

Industry

- Legislative Commission

IT Profile

- Windows 2008 Server
- Linux/Oracle Server
- 500GB backed up weekly
- CA ARCserve backup management application

Benefits

- Ease of Use
- Cross-platform backups
- More than 50% percent reduction in backup windows
- Simplifies disaster recovery

"ShareLoader® decreased our backup window significantly. We backup half a terabyte of data a week. The full backup was taking from 26 to 28 hours, and it's down to 11 hours. The incrementals were taking about three hours each and now, they take just over an hour."

~Joe Ferrer – The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

Joe Ferrer, Systems Administrator at The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (The GSMFC), began searching for a way to centralize his backups and shorten his backup windows. Like most small- to medium-enterprises, The GSMFC needs the same backup functionality of a large-scale enterprise but is working with a limited amount of internal resources and requires a more budget-friendly option than buying a costly tape library. "Basically, we needed a solution that simply works and does not require extensive resources to operate," said Ferrer. The GSMFC embraced the challenge of finding a backup solution with cross-platform capabilities, easy installation and the ability to reduce its backup window.

Cross-Platform Backup Capabilities Peaked Interest, Installation and Purchase

The GSMFC, founded in 1949, is an organization of five states whose coastal waters are the Gulf of Mexico. Its principal objective is the conservation, development and full utilization of the fishery resources of the Gulf of Mexico to provide food, employment, income and recreation. The GSMFC was using an AIT-based tape library to back up its Windows server and uses an older DLT system to back up its Linux-based Oracle server. More than anything, Ferrer wanted to be able to back up data living in a cross-platform environment onto a single format of tape media.

ShareLoader Chosen for its Cross-Platform Support

After learning ShareLoader would meet Ferrer's goals, the solution, which works seamlessly with The GSMFC's backup application, was installed. "One of the major reasons we chose ShareLoader is because of its cross-platform abilities. ShareLoader can backup our Windows server and Linux-based Oracle server with the same system," said Ferrer. "When ShareLoader came along, it opened our eyes as to what we could do. The features in ShareLoader that automatically move the virtuals to physicals really make it a hands-off machine."

Installed and Backing Up Data in Less Than an Hour

Describing the implementation as "painless" and "plug and play," Ferrer said ShareLoader was backing up data on the Windows server within 45 minutes. From the start of installation, ShareLoader replaced The GSMFC's AIT system for backing up its Windows server. Soon, the Linux-based Oracle system's data will be backed up to ShareLoader as well, and all data will be stored on the same type of tape media, creating a uniform backup environment. Ferrer is "very happy" with ShareLoader: "For now, I keep the AIT system in case I need to restore from a very old set of tapes, but once those tapes are rotated out of my schedule, the AIT system will be gone."

Major Reduction in Backup Windows—‘One of the Most Valuable Assets’

Before ShareLoader’s implementation, The GSMFC was backing up data incrementally throughout the week and doing a full backup on the weekend. Using the old AIT system, a full backup of the Windows server was taking an average of 25 hours each weekend. Incrementals were taking about three hours. Today, full backups take approximately 11 hours and incrementals take just over an hour. This is a reduction of more than 50% in the backup window, which Ferrer appreciates: “I’m very happy with the decrease in backup time. It’s one of ShareLoader’s most valuable assets.”

Simplification of Disaster Recovery Processes

ShareLoader gives The GSMFC more options for disaster recovery. “If a hurricane comes, we can just pull one set of tapes and off we go,” Ferrer said. ShareLoader’s implementation allows The GSMFC to feel secure in knowing their tapes are quickly accessible in the case of a disaster, which provides additional peace of mind for Ferrer and his team.

Praise for the Crossroads Support Team

Ferrer commends Crossroads support team for being patient and just as responsive to his organization as larger clients. “Like many, we’re a little ‘speck’ out here. Crossroads treats us like we are huge,” he said. “Crossroads doesn’t play favorites with the size of the company and is just as responsive to us as a huge organization, so that speaks a lot for the company’s dedication and makes us feel good.”

Goals Met and Problems Solved

ShareLoader transformed The GSMFC's backup infrastructure into a faster, more efficient environment. Ferrer is delighted to now be able to backup to a single format of tape in a cross-platform environment. The Commission's full backup, reduced by 14 hours each weekend, is a "tremendous time savings." With ShareLoader, Ferrer feels The GSMFC has implemented the correct solution for its backup and disaster recovery needs moving forward.



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ABOUT CROSSROADS

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