

Computer Research, Inc. Streamlines Backup Systems & Reduces Backup Windows by 40% Using Virtual Tape Server



Computer Research, Inc.
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Industry

- Finance

IT Profile

- Multiple IBM AS/400 & iSeries
- Use of BRMS for backups of system data
- SCSI attached IBM physical tape drives

Benefits

- Up to 40% reduction in backup window
- Instant ROI by moving to one tape system
- Ease of management
- No impact to existing applications and systems

"We chose VTS because it's the only universal hardware/software option to bring disparate systems together under one system to handle tape management. We have reduced our backup window by 40% and are now able to use one tape format. Our stored tape images now appear as files on a disk drive versus a tape system."

~Dennis Noto – Computer Research, Inc.

Founded in 1961, Computer Research, Inc. (CRI) provides securities processing services for regional brokerage and financial services firms across the United States, including securities for brokerage processing and long-term SEC-required record-keeping. Dennis Noto, Chief Information Officer at CRI, needed one system to be able to leverage disk speed to do backups versus relying on disparate tape systems and media formats.

Noto had researched other options, but said, "I was familiar with all the solutions at the time we chose Virtual TapeServer (VTS)." The last thing he wanted was another huge tape system to add to the mix. "I knew what other company's options were," said Noto. "They all had big tape systems with memory inside them to place secondary storage on tape—not anything I was looking for." CRI wanted to avoid the significant cost of a new physical tape investment that would not reduce the overall backup and restore time.

As a cost-effective solution, "VTS was built around the ability to hook up to IBM AS/400 host systems," said Noto. VTS combines traditional tape backup methodologies and inexpensive, reliable disk storage to create an optimized data management environment.

VTS Stores CRI's Data on Disk as It Would on Tape—but Many Times Faster

VTS is a virtual tape appliance and software solution that delivers scalable, high performance virtual tape for disk-based backup and restore of IBM AS/400 servers. VTS uses low-cost disk RAID arrays that emulate the properties of physical tape to create virtual tape drives and virtual tape cartridges that can be pooled together to create virtual tape libraries. "The instant savings you get with cutting down to one tape format in the data center instead of having many different tape formats is extremely helpful," said Noto. "Now, we're now able to get rid of old cartridges and move to high-density LTO tapes, so we can store several small backups onto one tape for more efficient storage capabilities."

Disaster Recovery Operations Easier and Process More Reliable

If archive and disaster recovery operations require data be written to physical tape, VTS efficiently writes virtual tape to physical media. With tape media eliminated from backup operations, processes are more reliable and VTS removes the hassles of tape rotations. "We like the ability to send backups to our disaster recovery site for our warm disaster recovery capabilities for our service field," said Noto. "Once the data is on tape, it can go anywhere I want for disaster recovery or integrity purposes."

VTS Tackled Growing Backup Windows to Keep CRI Up and Running

The main value Noto found in VTS is its ability to get backups done every night from their batch process. "It's very important to cut down our backup time so we can always get the systems up and running as quickly as possible," said Noto. Also, the ability to streamline the backup process using disk technology is exactly what Noto was looking for: "Now, we've streamlined the whole taping process by integrating RAID disk hardware to make it much faster." Additionally, CRI can now consolidate tape resources to gain an 'enterprise look' into information stored at the data center.

Management Easy via a Web-based Console

CRI runs three environments in production and about 10 environments in testing, and Noto simply describes the VTS management interface as easy to use. "One of the things we will be doing is streamlining our testing process because, using VTS, we can keep system images of each environment and bring them back up at any time," said Noto. "In our test environments, we can look at any kind of securities or brokerage environment, whether it be end-of-week, end-of-month or end-of-year without going through a slow file recovery process."

CRI Says Crossroads Takes Care of Its Customers

Today, Noto says the VTS product is solid, and "one thing I like about Crossroads is that the company stays committed to its product." Confident that Crossroads was invested in fixing issues/answering questions, Noto said, "I always knew my sales representative was going to take care of the situation and get things done."



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ABOUT CROSSROADS

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