



"FalconStor VTL with integrated deduplication has enabled us to save storage space, hardware, energy, and time, while reducing backup windows and enabling high availability. The most amazing part is that we have managed to store 180TB of security copies in 30TB of physical space."

– Leticia Bernardo González, Administrator of Distributed Systems, Grupo Antolin

Grupo Antolin

International manufacturer of automotive parts streamlines storage requirements with FalconStor VTL and integrated data deduplication

Background

Grupo Antolin is an international organization that specializes in the design and manufacturing of components and modules for the interior of automobiles, such as roofs, doors, and seats. Based in Spain, the company currently has a workforce of approximately 10,000 and a presence in 22 countries through 84 factories and 21 office sites.

The central information systems (IS) management team is comprised of around 50 people, with 10 individuals dedicated to storage and backup. This team handles huge volumes of data, and stores security copies of systems of files, mailing, databases, ERP, 3D design, and product lifecycle management (PLM). Its backup system stores 300TB of information from the central systems. An additional 100TB of data from remote centers also needs to be replicated (file servers, NAS, databases, and mailing data).

One of biggest buzzwords within the IS management team at Grupo Antolin is "availability." In the automotive industry, a premium is placed on just-in-time (JIT) strategies. In order to avoid delays in production or delivery, the team needs to protect data from crashes or data loss by minimizing recovery times.

Challenge

The company's primary data center houses a tape backup environment for all of the central systems and several remote systems (more than 300 servers and backup client systems in total). The system worked by employing methods of high local availability. However, in the event of disasters in the data center itself, system availability was not guaranteed, and there was an ongoing risk of data loss. Because these production systems were critical to business continuity (SAP, production database systems, and client communications), a secondary data center became essential.

According to Leticia Bernardo González, Administrator of Distributed Systems at Grupo Antolin, a remote disaster recovery (DR) site would provide service contingencies to the data center and house production infrastructures backed up locally. She adds: "We always work with the latest technology. That is why we needed a global solution to go beyond a simple 'fireproof' cabinet concept in which to store the tapes. We needed a second complete and independent



Industry

Manufacturing/Distribution

Company Profile

Grupo Antolin, a leading global supplier of components for vehicle interiors, offers its clients an integral service embracing the conception, design, development, manufacturing, and distribution of overhead systems, doors, and seats. With a workforce of 10,000 and presence in 22 countries, the company has 84 plants and 21 technical-commercial offices. With capable teams and state-of-the-art technology, the company supplies top-quality products and services. Its distinguishing values include financial strength, innovation, and competitiveness in terms of quality and cost.

IT Environment

- > More than 300 servers or backup client systems with storage on tape
- > SAP production systems, production database systems, client communication systems
- > NAS file servers
- > IBM Tivoli Storage Manager, TS 3500, TS 1120
- > Symantec Backup Exec and Symantec NetBackup
- > Microsoft Distributed File System

Challenges

- > Create a DR site to protect data and ensure system availability
- > Needed to retire an old tape library
- > Inadequate physical storage space
- > Heterogeneous storage infrastructure

Solution

- > FalconStor® Virtual Tape Library (VTL) with integrated deduplication

Benefits

- > Storage savings; able to store 180TB of data in 30TB of physical space
- > Reduction in hardware and associated energy requirements
- > Flexibility in the backup infrastructure
- > Minimized the backup window
- > Achieved high availability levels

backup system that could house replicated data and provide the same level of service.”

As an additional challenge, the team needed to retire an old tape library and required additional storage. However, there was insufficient physical space at the DR site to install a tape library similar to the one in the main data center.

FalconStor Solution

Because storage space was limited, the company was committed to implementing deduplication along with virtual tape; the latter of which promised to be flexible and relatively easy to install in the complex IT environment. FalconStor® Virtual Tape Library (VTL) with integrated FalconStor® Single Instance Repository (SIR) deduplication engine provided the ideal solution.

Deployment Details

Generally, the backup system at Grupo Antolin has IBM Tivoli Storage Manager (TSM) for the central systems, along with other systems such as Symantec Backup Exec and Symantec NetBackup in remote centers, and replication solutions such as Microsoft Distributed File System. From a storage perspective, there are two types of data: data requiring short-term protection, which is kept in EMC Clariion (CX700 and CX-340) ATA disc cabinets, and data requiring long-term retention, which is kept on an IBM TotalStorage (TS) 3500 tape library and IBM TS 1120 tape drives.

The FalconStor solution is integrated into all of the backup servers in the data center, and accounts for 50% of the storage of security copies installed in the environment. A FalconStor VTL server and two FalconStor SIR deduplication nodes are installed in a cluster configuration with a net capacity of 32TB of unique data. FalconStor VTL data is exported to tape.

Business Benefits

“Installation in different backup systems in traditional security copy libraries is a complex task, since the library must be shared, the different servers must be physically connected, and so on,” says Bernardo. “These challenges multiply if you are in a mixed environment such as ours.” Yet the FalconStor VTL solution was able to integrate with this complex environment, providing a customized solution that suited the department’s needs. Bernardo adds, “In the case of FalconStor VTL, the creation and presentation of a library is quick and simple, and also flexible in terms of the selection of the type or capacity.”

FalconStor VTL with deduplication reduces hardware requirements



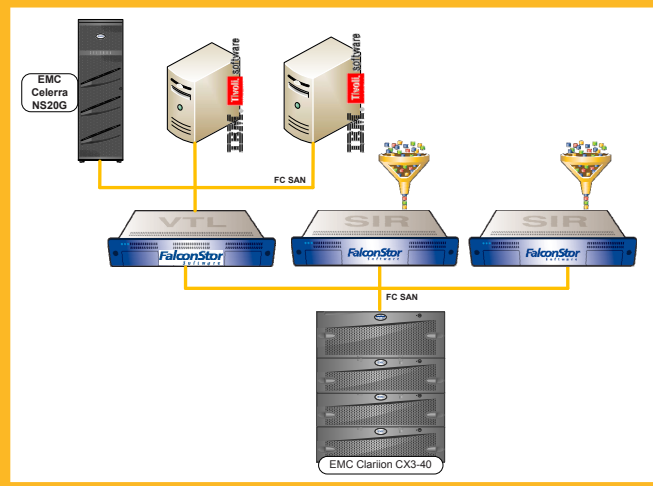
Another key advantage is storage savings. “FalconStor VTL with integrated deduplication has enabled us to save storage space, hardware, energy, and time, while reducing backup windows and enabling high availability,” Bernardo explains. The FalconStor SIR deduplication engine provides Grupo Antolin with a data reduction average of 10:1. This has enabled Bernardo and her team to store 180TB of security copies in just 30TB of physical space.

Additional advantages cited include enhanced performance, simplified scalability, and centralized management.

Future Plans

Based on the positive results of the FalconStor solution, Grupo Antolin is preparing to install backup on the company’s SAN, and to expand the system of virtual libraries, installing them in high availability clusters. Other upcoming storage projects include data archiving and the installation of a long-term archival system.

How Grupo Antolin leverages the FalconStor VTL solution



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