

Customer Success

“With our enormous data increases, our previous method for backing up, restoring, and moving tapes offsite was not viable. FalconStor VTL enables us to efficiently manage our rapid data growth.”

— Lonny Selinger, Linux/Open Source & Infrastructure Specialist,
Saskatchewan Power



SaskPower

Overview

Saskatchewan Power (SaskPower) is the principal supplier of electricity in its central Canadian province and serves more than 467,000 customers. The utility manages \$4.5 billion in assets and has 2,600 employees working with users in 71 communities.

With data stores totaling close to 44TB and increasing at a rate of 50% every 18 months, SaskPower faced difficulties completing backups within its backup window. The organization performed full disk-to-tape (D2T) backups on the weekend and differentials each weeknight. Too often, these processes failed during unattended shifts, causing backup routines to be pushed into the next business day. This caused delays in tape pick-up and delivery. Furthermore, SaskPower was rapidly running out of physical storage space.

Objectives

- Implement a solution capable of scaling to accommodate projected data growth
- Speed up cripplingly long backup and restore processes
- Improve overall efficiency in managing the ever-increasing amount of data stored on the SAN, file servers, and workstations

Solution

After evaluating several other options, SaskPower determined that a combination of solutions from FalconStor Software and Symantec would best meet its objectives. The organization worked with Chi Corporation to implement FalconStor[®] Virtual Tape Library (VTL) with integrated deduplication and Symantec NetBackup OpenStorage (OST) to optimize backup performance, shrink the backup window, and improve overall efficiency.

SaskPower has six remote sites with local media servers and smaller tape libraries or standalone tape drives. The organization protects 23TB of data across 203 clients, which equates to approximately 44TB of data stored on tape per week. SaskPower averages 1,500 backup jobs per week, and can now back up at a fraction of the time previously required.

Benefits

- Daily backups that were taking 14 hours are now completed in 45 minutes
- Eliminated the need for the manual swapping of tapes
- Able to easily replicate data offsite for disaster recovery (DR)

Solution provided by

