



Success Story: Secure Data Replication to Collocation Facility

Summary:

TerpSys devised a secure data replication strategy allowing a client to copy crucial data to a collocation facility in near-real-time, in compliance with Securities & Exchange Commission regulations.

Client: Sands Capital Management

A Virginia-based independent investment management firm, Sands has a wide range of tax-exempt and taxable clients, including institutional pension plans, endowments, foundations, families and individuals.



Objectives:

- Replicate confidential data of client customers to an offsite facility in near-real-time
- Ensure that all data transfers are accurate and secure
- Minimize impact of data replications on client connectivity

Challenge

The connectivity in the client's then-current IT environment imposed significant limitations on the range of available solutions. To be viable, a solution would have to ensure that replication activities did not overwhelm Sands' systems and interfere with normal business operations. This problem was compounded by the fact that the data sets to be replicated and transferred would be both large and continually changing.

A second issue was that of data security. As an investment management firm, Sands was under a fiduciary obligation to keep its customers' financial information confidential at all times. Thus, any facility employed to store the replicated data needed to be secure. Moreover, a process had to be put in place to ensure that not only the storage facility, but each individual data transfer, was itself accomplished in a secure and accurate manner.

Solution

TerpSys procured rack space at a biometrically-secured collocation facility outside of the client's power grid footprint. The biometric security features protected client data, while the facility's distance from the client's office ensured uninterrupted access to data by minimizing the chance that a single power outage would affect both locations at the same time. Additional server equipment replicated the current production environment.

TerpSys analyzed feature sets and costs, and recommended DoubleTake software to replicate data sets to the collocation facility. The adverse impact of data transfers on connectivity was minimized by using DoubleTake's compression features to reduce the size of data transmissions, and by scheduling them during late-night, weekend, and other low-use periods as fiduciary requirements allowed.

A site-to-site VPN was established between the collocation facility and company headquarters to ensure that data was transmitted securely. A monitoring system was implemented to ensure the system remained operational over time.

Results

- Delivered enhanced data replication capability to client, on time and on budget
- Implemented procedures and standards to confirm secure data transfer and storage
- Ensured uninterrupted data access via careful selection of offsite replication facility
- Reduced replication's impact on client's normal business activities by compressing data and sending it during "off-peak" hours whenever possible.