FUJITSU

Case Study
Nassauische Heimstätte / Wohnstadt

»With the deployment of ETERNUS CS800 Data Protection Appliance we have been able to increase our backup speed significantly – we now manage with half as much time. In addition, the deduplication technology has made it possible to shrink our data volume drastically.«

Mario Friedrich, Information Systems and Services Division, Nassauische Heimstätte / Wohnstadt Group, Germany

The customer

For over 80 years the Nassauische Heimstätte / Wohnstadt Group has offered services for living, building and development. **www.naheimst.de**

UNTERNEHMENSGRUPPE
NASSAUISCHE HEIMSTÄTTE
WOHNSTADT

The challenge

To face the challenge of quickly growing data, the Nassauische Heimstätte / Wohnstadt Group was searching for a new solution for its second headquarters in Kassel that would minimize backup time.

The solution

With the integration of the Fujitsu ETERNUS CS800 Data Protection Appliance combined with CA ARCserve® Backup, the Group has been able to shrink their data volume dramatically and cut backup times by half.

Hesse's biggest accommodation provider

The core activity of the Nassauische Heimstätte / Wohnstadt Group is renting out around 65,000 of its own apartments at over 150 locations throughout the Federal German State of Hesse. Besides the associated tasks of administration, modernization and portfolio maintenance, building high-quality apartments is one of the key concerns of the Group. Other focal points relate to the sectors of urban planning, redevelopment agency work, municipal building construction and implementing private property measures. The Group came into being in 2005 as the result of a merger of the predecessor companies Nassauische Heimstätte GmbH with its headquarters in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, and Wohnstadt GmbH in Kassel, Germany. Both companies avail of eight decades of experience in real-estate management and in all areas of planning and building in the Federal States of Hesse and Thuringia and in numerous countries of the European Union.

Optimizing backup windows with ETERNUS CS

It was necessary to modernize the backup system for the second headquarters of the Group in Kassel, Germany. It was also necessary to rethink the backup concept. As Mario Friedrich, Server, Storage and Communication Systems Administrator at the Nassauische Heimstätte / Wohnstadt Group sums up: "Our main question was: How do we get to grips with backup times – and, of course, how do we get to grips with data capacity? On the one hand, data quantities are on the increase all the time and, at the same time, there is less time available for data backup." It quickly became certain that network storage with deduplication would be the best way to reduce the data quantity and optimize the backup window. After comparing the competing solutions, the Group opted for the ETERNUS CS800 Data Protection Appliance from Fujitsu, because both the performance features and the price-performance ratio were convincing.

The benefit

- High data availability due to accelerated backup and recovery
- Radically minimized backup volume thanks to deduplication
- High disk performance and reliability
- Easy on-site scalability
- Easy configuration via an intuitive web-user interface

Products and services

- Storage system: 1 x ETERNUS CS800
- Backup software: CA ARCserve® Backup
- Maintenance & Support

Two terabytes of backup data

The computing center of the Nassauische Heimstätte / Wohnstadt Group in Kassel, Germany, has over 40 servers, and three further branch offices are also linked up to it. Mario Friedrich estimates that the quantity of data to be backed up has now grown to around two terabytes. It comprises conventional office correspondence, the ERP system and CAD data and extensive redevelopment plans – because the day-to-day tasks of the Group also cover urban redevelopment and building new apartments. The fact that the Nassauische Heimstätte / Wohnstadt Group opted for a Fujitsu backup solution was also attributable to positive experiences in the past: As Mario Friedrich says: "The quality of the Fujitsu servers is just what we need. Furthermore, the quality of service when implementing systems or if there is a problem is irreproachable. We have firm maintenance contracts and everything runs great."

The deduplication factor of success

The obvious step was to take a closer look at ETERNUS CS800 S2. As Mario Friedrich explains, "We wanted to simplify our backup procedure and reduce the quantity of tapes. We would have needed bigger and bigger tape drives and more vault space to store the tapes. So the concept of putting our backup on network storage was an important step for us. The deduplication technology of the ETERNUS system is optimal for reducing data volume." In order to do this, space-saving reference pointers are set and these take the place of the redundant data blocks within the backup files. This means that ETERNUS CS800 S2 is able to spot redundant data and eliminate it – so only the data added or changed between the backup phases is saved. This is why ETERNUS CS800 provides the ideal basis for making full backups in a space-saving way. In case of disaster, the Group can thus quickly jump back to the last status and does not need to take recourse to individually restoring incremental backups plus the last full backup, which would take more time and would be more error-prone.

Greater data reduction than expected

The Nassauische Heimstätte / Wohnstadt Group uses the "NAS Basic" version of ETERNUS CS800 S2, i.e. the Network Attached Storage System version that is supplied as standard with 16 terabytes of disk storage. The Group also ordered an expander unit, so that the overall capacity is now 32 terabytes. The system could be scaled still further to 160 terabytes. The advantages of the system soon became clear to Mario Friedrich:

"Already after the first few weeks, using ETERNUS CS800 S2 led to a greater data reduction than Fujitsu led us to believe. Fujitsu said we could assume that the data volume would be cut in the ratio 10:1 – but we actually achieve a factor of 11:1. This is an outstanding result."

Accelerated backup speed

This new margin now means greater data integrity and security. As Mario Friedrich adds, "It allows us to keep more data available, without having to overwrite it. So our backup now covers a longer period – and therefore is of higher quality." An additional factor which must not be underestimated is the time advantage. "Our backup times are now around half what they were. That has really speeded things up," Mario Friedrich judges. The same applies to the restore times because, after all, access to data on hard disks is far faster than would be permitted by tape media. But Mario Friedrich still doesn't want to do without tapes entirely. The weekend full backups are written to ETERNUS CS800 and also backed up on tapes. "But we can confidently remove the tapes from the system and put them in a vault," Mario Friedrich sums up.

Contact
Fujitsu Technology Solutions
Customer Interaction Centre
Mo. – Fr. 8 am – 6 pm
E-Mail: cic@ts.fujitsu.com
Telephone: +49 (0) 1805-372 100
(14 cents/min via German landline,
max. 42 cents/min via German mobile network)