AmeriFirst Finance

AMERIFIRST finance

CHALLENGE

AmeriFirst previously performed backups utilizing 3rd party Windows- based backup software to send critical customer data to DAT and RDX disks. This manual backup process became cumbersome quickly, as their data growth accelerated and backup windows become smaller.

After experiencing slow backup performance and a lack of business continuity coverage without any type of failover, AmeriFirst approached Overland Storage for a more robust and automatic way of protecting data with offsite disaster recovery.

SOLUTION

snapserver®

SnapServer creates a cost-effective and easily integrated data management solution for backup and disaster recovery. With powerful features like DynamicRAID, High Performance Snapshots, Replication Features and RDX integration, SnapServer is a powerful enterprise-wide storage repository.

AmeriFirst Finance chooses SnapServer NAS and RDX Backup Storage for automated disaster recovery and backup of their business-critical data

Managing Data Growth

AmeriFirst Finance is a privately-held financial services company offering consumer loans and third party portfolio management for more than 35 years. With prompt, timely customer service as a key value, AmeriFirst Finance needs a secure location to share and store the customer loan documents processed by employees. It is crucial that this repository must be constantly available to ensure non-disruptive access to data, and maintain full disaster protection to guarantee compliance.

The Automated and Reliable Overland Storage Solution

To ensure permanent data accessibility, AmeriFirst chose a multi-layer storage approach using the scalable SnapServer Network Attached Storage array, the Snap Enterprise Data Replication (EDR) software, and the RDX QuikStor backup system. This tiered methodology allows fast and instant access to data, even if a component fails, is brought off-line, or in the event of a disaster.

A tiered Concept for full Data Availability

As their first layer of data protection and recovery, AmeriFirst utilized key features of the SnapServer NAS including DynamicRAID and snapshot features in conjunction with replication. All data stored on the SnapServer is protected from hard drive failure and is automatically provisioned using DynamicRAID. By taking snapshots of the 1.5 terabytes of production data every 4 hours, they are able to recover from accidental file deletion or corruption.

The next layer of the disk-to-disk backup is created by replicating the snapshots to an on-site SnapServer using Snap EDR every 12 hours to protect against a failure of the primary storage system. The third tier is established by replicating to an off-site SnapServer each night, which provides complete redundancy in the event of the primary site failure.

Another significant line of protection utilizes the RDX QuikStor removable disk system. AmeriFirst uses RDX for off-site data storage, securely held in a lockbox, in the event of a two-fold disaster recovery where their production facilities fail and the off-site replication is not accessible and supporting current LAN data is still needed to compliment the critical loan data hosted off-site.

![rdx QUIKSTOR logo]

The RDX QuikStor ruggedized backup appliance solution provides secure, reliable and convenient removable storage for backup, archive, data exchange, and disaster recovery, providing enterprise performance and fast access with transfer rates up to 260 megabytes per second, and media capacities up to 2TB per cartridge.
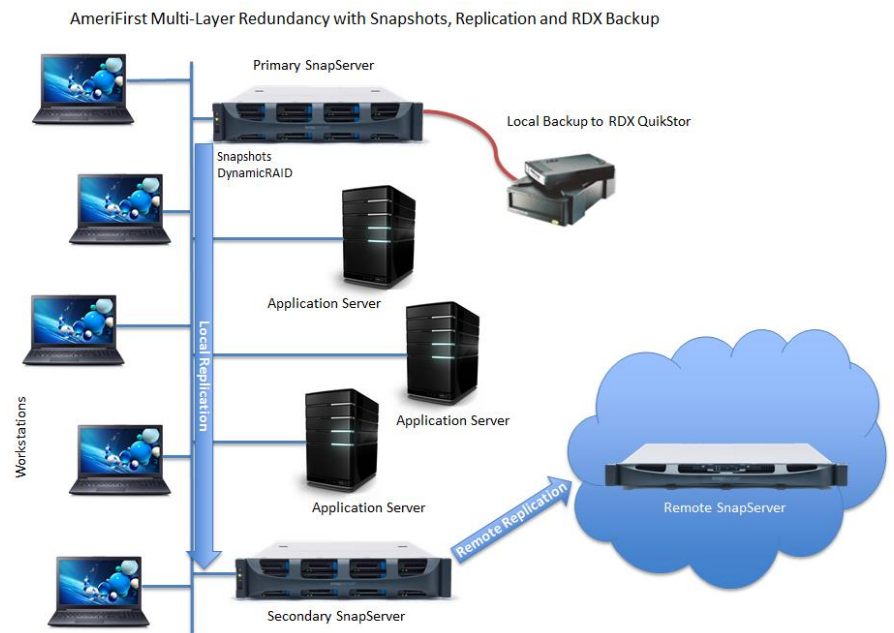
Jim Houser, Director of Information Systems at AmeriFirst Finance

" We installed our SnapServer and attached the RDX QuikStor drive, and were pleased to see that SnapServer now has a robust, direct backup solution for our crucial data. Oh and it's darn fast writing to the RDX cartridge. Doing backup through software on a Windows computer was horribly slow. This direct SnapServer NAS to RDX connection is killer fast!"

" *With RDX working as fast as it does and having it directly managed in the SnapServer GuardianOS, this now makes it feasible to perform a secure counter-to-counter air flight delivery of current production data to our contracted third party servicer located outside our primary facility in the event of total disaster of the first and second layers of data protection that Snap EDR is providing. The added layer of replication gives us a great disaster recovery tool and the peace of mind knowing our data is available in the event that a site goes down.*"

Multi-Layer Redundancy

AmeriFirst Multi-Layer Redundancy with Snapshots, Replication and RDX Backup

Conclusion

With their new backup and disaster recovery in place, AmeriFirst is able to protect from failures, outages and disasters and to offer a non-disruptive service to their customers. The new solutions provide a competitive advantage by levering availability and trust.