"Thanks to SEP sesam we had reliable backups immediately and now, restoring our critical data is fast, easy and accurate."

PISD
Pflugerville Independent School District

Situation

Pflugerville ISD was faced with moving their operation from an old antiquated SAN and server hardware environment, to a new SAN and Virtual Server installation. At the time, their current backup system was old and based on tape libraries, which had become inconsistent and unreliable. The tape libraries were out of warranty and starting to require maintenance. The amount of data to backup had grown to the point that during the backup window there was not sufficient time to complete all the backup jobs necessary. The system although "state of the art" when it was purchased eleven years ago, was now slow, cumbersome to use and unreliable.

CHALLENGE

It was imperative that the organization have a reliable backup system before they started transitioning to the new virtual/SAN environment. Pulling out the old tape library hardware was one of the first steps in that process in order to provide rack space for the new SAN and server hardware. "We needed a backup system that would not take up a lot of physical room and would support our environment which was Novell NetWare, Cluster Volumes, and eDirectory," states **John Carlton**, Network Administrator.

SOLUTION

While attending a Novell training and Conference event, in which **SEP sesam** was a major sponsor, Sr. Systems Administrator John Carlton became familiar with **SEP sesam** and upon returning to work, began testing the software.

"After testing **SEP sesam** with the trial software they made available, we   confirmed that it did in fact support Novell NetWare Cluster Volumes and eDirectory Rights," Carlton said. The team made the decision to purchase a piece of standard server hardware that could be reused or expanded down the road and SEP software to get started on the transition process of going from the old hardware to the new SAN and server environment.

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SEP Software Corp.

SEP Software Corp. is a technology leader providing standardized and high performance data availability solutions for professional IT environments of all sizes. SEP sesam and its associated products deliver seamless solutions to your backup requirements.

SEP sesam ensures that data security for virtual machine environments including data backup, restore, disaster recovery and encryption can be both easily and cost-effectively achieved. SEP's software is the ultimate expression of German engineering and attention to detail. Design and programming originate from our German offices in Weyarn, near Munich where overall performance and reliability are under our constant vigilance.

SOLUTION

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The Pflugerville ISD Systems Department installed and built the SUSE Linux server which has 20 TB of onboard storage and occupies 2 rack units of space. SEP engineers worked with Pflugerville staff and remotely loaded SEP sesam onto a server and implemented the desired configuration within a few hours. "After using **SEP sesam** for several months we have to say that we are very pleased with the product's expanded functionality, very pleased with the ease of use and in working with the company as a whole. In addition, SEP's support staff has been a pleasure to work with throughout the installation and continues to be very responsive whenever we have questions," stated Carlton.

"Thanks to the **SEP sesam** solution we had reliable backups immediately and now, restoring our critical data is fast, easy and accurate. It has allowed us to move ahead with the transition to the new SAN and virtual environment with confidence that we are protected as we move our data."

RESULTS

"Implementing **SEP sesam** has eased our workload and provided additional backup capability and capacity we did not have with other solutions. In addition, the time we spend working on backup related issues has been dramatically reduced."

"Our backup window is now sufficient to handle all the backup jobs necessary to protect the data. We start close to 30 full backup jobs of over 5 TB of data every Friday at 5 p.m. all of which usually finish by Saturday evening. It fully supports Windows, Linux, and NetWare servers as well as Novell Cluster Volumes. Over the past year we have become confident in the system and no longer monitor our backup process after hours to see that it is working. When we come in on Monday mornings, the process has routinely run smoothly and successfully."

"We have already recommended **SEP sesam** to several of our colleagues in the area," Carlton added.