

Backup and Disaster Recovery (BDR) case study

Issue

Charming Shoppes is a multibillion dollar, multi channel fashion apparel retailer for plus size women. It has over 2500 stores across US. The management wanted to implement proper backup and disaster recovery plan for its Windows Servers and SQL Servers. Without backing up the production data production applications could be restored in case of a disaster. No company can survive a disaster without a proper disaster recovery plan. This company was no exception. The disaster could be natural, external or internal. Very often production databases and files needed to be restored from the backups due to many reasons. Sometimes they were problem with the data, sometimes the users inadvertently made changes to data or delete the data. There were situations when the systems crashed or disk corruptions. There were some business requirements that warranted restoring data from a previous backup. With over many terabytes of data, backing up and restoring was a challenge.

Solution

We came up with a strategy for backing up the Windows Servers, File Servers, Application Servers, SQL Servers, Oracle Servers and other database servers. The company used a combination of network and tape backups. The tapes were taken offsite and were stored in a secure location. Depending upon the business needs, different backup strategies were devised. Nightly full back up were taken for most of the servers. Some of the application needed to be restored prior to the point of failure. Full, differential, hourly backups were taken. Some servers were backed up as often as every 15 minutes. All backups and failures were monitored carefully and any failures were fixed immediately through our monitoring system.

Result

The strategies implemented made sure all the critical production data was backed up depending upon the business needs. Whenever a restore was needed the backups were available to restore the data to a point-in-time prior to failure. This strategy protected valuable company information and provided protection from any major business disasters.