

Teralyte Removable Disk Backup

KHOU-TV, a Belo owned station, is one of the largest media outlets in the Texas market. Servicing the Houston metro area, KHOU-TV owns and operates Channel 11 and khou.com.

Technical Challenge

The IT infrastructure at KHOU-TV is managed by Jason Vansco. Like most IT managers at small to medium sized organizations, Jason is responsible for everything IT related including managing PC's and backing up their critical data. Managing multiple tasks was Jason's biggest problem and he found himself spending too much of his valuable time managing backups.

KHOU-TV in Houston had a number of critical servers that were being backed up to direct attached DLT tape. As their data increased, Jason was running into a number of problems with their backups. The amount of data on each server eventually exceeded the capacity of their individual tapes requiring Jason to switch tapes in the middle of his backups. This meant that some backups were running during working hours and were using up valuable bandwidth. In addition, having tape drives in each individual server meant that Jason had to manage multiple backup jobs/tapes per day.

Jason realized that he needed to find a solution to this problem. He needed a centralized backup system that offered both larger capacity media that would allow him to successfully backup all of his data during off hours.

"The Teralyte was exactly what I needed"

"When I started researching this project I thought that we needed to find a tape drive that was larger and faster than DLT. We initially looked at LTO-3 and LTO-4 as options. I was a little hesitant about this because of the cost of these systems were fairly high and the fact was, we would still be using tape to backup our critical data," said Vansco. "That is when we stumbled across the Teralyte system from Idealstor."

"We liked the idea of backing up to disk because of problems we encountered in the past with slow backup speeds and unreliable restores while working with tape. Upgrading to a larger and supposedly faster type of tape just didn't seem like the right way to go. Removable disk was ideal for us because it gave us the faster backup and restore of disk but also the ability to send our disks offsite like we did with our tapes."

The Solution

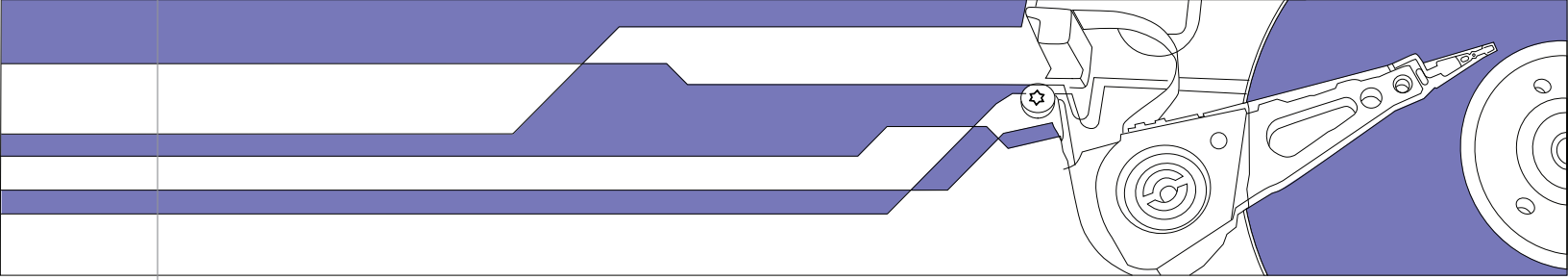
KHOU-TV purchased the Idealstor Teralyte 2000 Rackmount unit. The Teralyte is a removable disk backup system designed to be used in place of tape. The Teralyte 2000 offers two removable drive bays that can accommodate the largest capacity SATA disks on the market (currently 1TB/disk). Each drive bay is recognized as a removable disk target offering up to 2 simultaneous backups per system.

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"The Teralyte was exactly what I needed," said Jason Vansco at KHOU-TV. "For the cost of a single LTO-3 drive that only offered me 400GB of native capacity, the Teralyte 2000 gave me up to 2TB of backup space. This is more than we need now but it allows me to grow as we add more data. The backup speeds are far faster backing up to disk and each nightly backup now fits on a single 750GB SATA disk that we purchased online. Not to mention it came with iBac backup software which I now use for my server backups"

iBac 4.0 comes bundled with the Teralyte and offers companies an alternative to tape backup software on the market. iBac was designed to backup to disk and offers backup administrators native format backup. Native backups allow data to be recovered by a simple drag and drop operation and offers unique DR functionality by simply allowing companies to mount this disk in any server to recover data in case of disaster.

The Teralyte is designed to attach to a Windows 2003 Server/backup server or an XP workstation via a controller provided by Idealstor. Each removable drive bay appears as a local disk on the network. KHOU attached the Teralyte to an existing Windows 2003 Server and configured the removable disks for backup.

The Teralyte was able to handle all the requirements for KHOU:

- Consolidated Backups - By attaching the Teralyte to a 2003 Server on the network, KHOU now runs all their backups to a single 750GB SATA disk that can be taken offsite daily.
- Cost Effective Solution - The Teralyte 2000 Rackmount is a 1U backup solution that offers 2TB of removable disk backup for the price of a single LTO-3 solution
- Faster Backups - Using ibac 4.0, KHOU can backup all of their data nightly using iBac's compare functionality that performs full backups in the time required to backup the daily changed data.

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