LIN·BIT

Long-Distance Data-center Replication

BACKGROUND Barkman Honey has been in the Kansas honey business since 1960. Providing processing and packaging, Barkman Honey has grown to require reliable systems that they depend on everyday. Given today's inventory and production demands, any downtime within their systems would have Barkman Honey in a bind.

They knew that their method of tape backups once per week would cause insufficient business continuity during a failure. After experiencing poor results using other software and hardware, Barkman Honey came to LINBIT.

BUSINESS CHALLENGE The challenge for Barkman Honey was to find software that could provide constant access to host their growing infrastructure. This included at least 25 virtual machines, a mail server messaging application, a firewall, and their internal SQL cluster.

Since the entire infrastructure relies on up-to-date data, Barkman's systems must be available at all times. The packaging and production lines run on such tight schedules, any system downtime means delayed customer shipments.

SOLUTION After an exhaustive search, J.R. Lillard chose DRBD® and DRBD Proxy®. As a system administrator, he knows that he needs block level replication in order to replicate all of Barkman Honey's applications in real-time.

Using DRBD® and DRBD Proxy®, Barkman has exceeded their High Availability and Disaster Recovery goals. On-site, they have a real-time replica of their core production system. Even if there is a critical server failure, DRBD® will perform it's magic and Barkman's IT systems will stay up and running. Offsite, they have a mirror of the production system, ready to take over in a moments notice if there is an entire site failure. Thanks to LINBIT, Barkman Honey is achieving their IT system resiliency goals.

"DRBD® has been very flexible in how we configure and use it. This is important to me, as I don't like being boxed into a vendor's pre-packaged solution with arbitrary limitations."

J.R. LILLARD

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