

With DRBD®, all Weather Data needed was a set of two, large Commercial Off-The-Shelf Servers!

BACKGROUND WeatherData Services, Inc. specializes in weather risk management for businesses, educational institutions, and government agencies.

It provides warnings, forecasts, and other services tailored to each client's needs. Data storage, processing, and availability are critically important aspects of WeatherData's IT infrastructure.

BUSINESS CHALLENGE To migrate 24/7 data processing operations from one site to another without downtime. Mission-critical clustered application servers relied on NFS, so WeatherData needed a zero downtime mechanism to move their data center.

The only other option for storage replication across two sites was to purchase two SAN-attached arrays, and enable LUN replication. The cost of two SANs, Fiber Channel interconnects, and the licenses to enable replication was prohibitive; the challenge of adopting new overly complex technology would have been insurmountable.

SOLUTION With DRBD®, all WeatherData needed was two commercial off-the-shelf servers with lots of disk space, which was much more cost-effective.

Since DRBD® can be installed in-place, on existing servers with internal SAN or direct-attached storage, implementing High Availability NFS services on existing servers is a snap. With no downtime, WeatherData implemented remote replication to ease the burden of swapping data center sites. Realizing the value of what it had built, WeatherData now runs High Availability NFS services to protect against hardware failure for further operations at its new site.



“DRBD® doesn't involve any new hardware technologies or complex setups that usually require vendor assistance. All the versatility we need is provided by DRBD®. It just works, and works reliably—we couldn't ask for more.”

DANIEL BOURQUE

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