The benefits of Continuous Data Protection (CDP) & High Availability

CDP: A Breakthrough in Recovery

Continuous Data Protection (CDP) is a flexible disk-based technology that makes data recovery from any point-in-time as easy as pushing a button and gives end users rapid access to any copy of data they need.

With CDP if a virus corrupts business data rendering it unusable - even though the server or other hardware resources continue to work as expected - the business can simply roll back their production environment to a point in time previous to the corruption and recover the lost data. For example, if a user accidentally deletes a critical file, CDP enables the business to return to the point in time just before the problem occurred.

HA solutions replicate data in real time to a backup server, they also replicate corrupted data to the backup system.

When HA is combined with CDP, the issue of data corruption is no longer a problem.

Another benefit of CDP technology is that it does not require the interruption of applications to perform backups. It works continuously so you can immediately recover data from any point in time.

When evaluating a CDP solution it is important to understand the difference between “True CDP” and “Near CDP”.

True CDP enables **recovery to any point in time** – especially important for a data corruption issue. For example, you can identify a tainted email, then roll back to a point just prior to the time the email arrived.

Near CDP lets you **recover to specific points in time**. For example, Near CDP will copy data when a file is saved or closed so the recovery point is only to the last known saved file. In some cases this could be several hours or more.

CDP enables businesses to recover quickly from software corruption, security breaches, virus attacks, accidentally deleted files and other causes of data loss.

Tape Backups & Data Availability

Tape backups can only restore data to the point-in-time at which the backup was taken - normally the previous night - so you risk the loss of large amounts of current data.

Tape-based recovery after an incident has occurred is time intensive. It takes time to locate the correct tape, transport it to the office (if it’s kept offsite), restore it to disk and restart the application.

Finally, tape is not entirely reliable. For a tape that's used every day for a daily backup, it will require replacement in around 8 months.

As the above issues illustrate, tape-based backup isn’t feasible for the continuous availability of data particularly as most data recovery requests are for recent data due to the inadvertent deletion of a file or data corruption.

True CDP Plus High Availability

HA solutions keep your applications operating continuously, regardless of planned or unplanned downtime but in some circumstance HA could use some help.

As HA solutions replicate data in real time to a backup server, they also replicate corrupted data to the backup system. When HA is combined with CDP, the issue of data corruption is no longer a problem. CDP enables you to simply return to any point in time previous to the corruption for instant recovery. The combination of HA and CDP provides seamless protection against data loss.

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