

# ENTERPRISE BACKUP AND DISASTER RECOVERY

## Success Stories



BUSINESS SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL

### Major Investment Bank chooses BSI and Sun for innovative Backup and Disaster Recovery solution

When it comes to IT requirements, financial institutions are in one of the most demanding sectors in the UK. For organisations such as investment banks – that deal with high-profile corporate, institutional and retail clients around the world – losing any amount of mission-critical data, however small, could result in a client losing millions of pounds. Banks, therefore, have a clearly defined need for a robust, high performance IT infrastructure that ensures continuous operation and 24 hour availability.

Business Systems International (BSI) specialises in the delivery of technically advanced application environments designed to meet the demanding business needs of organisations such as financial institutions. BSI delivers a range of products and services, based on the Sun Microsystems™ platform – from application and web servers, to database/transactional systems, storage networks and management systems. In order to meet the growing need for additional back-up capabilities for one of its high profile financial sector clients, BSI has supplied and installed a large-capacity, fast-access tape back-up and restore solution, based on a Sun™ StorEdge™ L700 system.

### Sun infrastructure supports bank's high-end applications

The client, a major international investment bank, already had a £multi-million Sun infrastructure solution, supplied by BSI, comprising a range of servers – from Sun Netra™ web servers through to high performance Sun Enterprise™ 6800 database servers. The mid-range Sun servers are used mainly for development and compute intensive applications, whilst the Sun Enterprise servers support the bank's high-end Oracle and Sybase database serving requirements, ensuring that the bank's mission-critical transaction processing and back-office systems are available 24x7.

"We originally chose the Sun platform because of its ability to support these high-end applications, as it offers the highest levels of scalability, reliability and availability," comments a spokesperson from the bank. "And we're now running all of our high-end applications on Sun. We need to run a number of standard communications applications from various suppliers, and all of these applications are optimised to run on the Sun platform. So if the applications suppliers seem to consider that Sun is the best platform for us to run their application on, it makes sense for us to install Sun – and we've certainly had no cause to consider an alternative platform, as Sun delivers exactly what we need."

#### Industry:

- Finance

#### Applications:

- Backup and Disaster Recovery solution
- Veritas Netbackup

#### Hardware/Software:

- 2 x Sun™ StorEdge™ L700 tape libraries, each with 8 x 9940 tape drives
- A range of Sun servers – from Netra™ web servers through to high performance Enterprise™ 6800 database servers
- Sun Solaris™ operating environment



#### Key Business Results:

- BSI has provided a solution that meets the bank's needs for continuous operation and 24 hour system availability
- The bank is meeting its objectives in terms of achieving zero downtime during key operational periods
- Sun back-up solution enables the bank to respond extremely rapidly to restore requests, as well as offering unattended recovery capabilities
- Owing to the large size of the data silos, the bank can keep up to two month's worth of tapes online, and can have a restore running within minutes
- Sun L700 tape libraries enable databases as large as 3.5TB to be backed up overnight, with ease, whilst the 9940 tape drives store data at 10MB per second native, with cartridges that store up to 60GB native – helping to increase data transfer rates and decrease access times
- The 9940's higher capacity also saves time and resources by reducing cartridge handling and maintenance costs
- Sun Enterprise servers support the bank's high-end Oracle and Sybase database serving requirements, ensuring that the bank's mission-critical transaction processing and back-office systems are available 24x7

## Sun solution simplifies back-up

With ever increasing amounts of data to process and store, the bank recently identified the need to enhance and increase its back-up capabilities. Following discussions with BSI, the bank again chose a Sun solution, comprising 2 x Sun StorEdge L700 systems, each with 8 x 9940 tape drives, together with a Brocade-based storage area network and Veritas Netbackup software. The L700s are located at two separate sites, the bank's main site and a dedicated disaster recovery site, and have been implemented over dark fibre to ensure a high rate of data transfer.

The L700 delivers the fastest access time of any tape library in Sun's range, with the ability to back-up many terabytes of data. Databases as large as 3.5TB can be backed up overnight, with ease. Each 9940 tape drive stores data at 10 Mb per second native (up to 37MB compressed), on cartridges that store up to 60GB native – helping to increase data transfer rates and decrease access times. The high capacity of the 9940s also saves time and resources by reducing cartridge handling and maintenance costs.

"One of the main benefits of the back-up solution is that it enables us to respond extremely rapidly to restore requests," continues the bank's spokesperson. "Because of the size of the data silos, we can keep up to a couple of month's worth of tapes online, and we can have a restore running within minutes. We now also have unattended recovery capabilities.

"We've also duplicated the data at a disaster recovery site, so we can keep the tapes on one site and back-up from discs at the other site. Our whole storage solution has been simplified, and is much easier to manage. We've even extended our use of the Sun solution so that we now back-up our low-end servers using the Sun back-up system.

## BSI delivers excellent service

"As well as enjoying the benefits of the storage solution, we've seen significant advantages from working with BSI. They understand the pressures that we're under in terms of deadlines and costs, and they have the ability to come up with creative solutions to our IT requirements. And their speed of turnaround both on quotations and deliveries is excellent. We were working to a very tight timescale in terms of putting together and installing the back-up solution – yet BSI still delivered everything well within our timescale. One of the biggest advantages of working with BSI is that they work alongside and complement our own in-house IT team. Unlike some other suppliers, they don't try to impose any services on us that we don't need. BSI assists our in-house team by checking our system designs and configurations, and then supplying the solution. Whilst working on the back-up solution project, members of BSI's team, including a Veritas specialist, came in and assisted at various stages, including the final validation of the system.

"The bank has a policy of not outsourcing project work, as we prefer to keep the skills in-house. We try to avoid using third parties to cover key project work – because the skills, the experience and the learning process are not retained within the bank. Using our own personnel to cover important projects helps to motivate our own team, and it's also more cost-effective for the bank, as we're not having to train up someone else's staff. Unlike any other suppliers we've worked with, BSI really listens to our needs, respects our working practices and just offers help where and when we truly need it."

## Solutions that help to maximise the benefits of IT

For those clients that do require additional services, BSI has a team of highly skilled consultants with a wealth of expertise in planning, designing, building, testing and implementing advanced application environments. The company has been delivering Sun solutions for over 14 years, and has a proven record of offering trusted advice on the Sun product range. "Combining our systems design and implementation skills with Sun's high performance products means that our clients are able to spend less time evaluating, configuring and optimising solutions, and more time concentrating on their core business activities," comments Geoffrey Strage, BSI. "Our approach is to gain an in-depth understanding of our client's business and marketplaces, and to deliver solutions that help them to maximise the business benefits they get from their IT infrastructure."

## Successfully meeting objectives – with BSI and Sun

"Together with Sun, BSI has provided a solution that meets our needs for continuous operation and 24 hour system availability," concludes the bank's spokesperson. "In terms of achieving our objectives, we have defined specific periods during which we're aiming to have zero downtime – and with BSI's and Sun's help, we are successfully meeting these objectives."



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