CASE STUDY

Solution at-a-glance

Company
De Persgroep

Industry
Multimedia

Employees
770

Storage application
- Capability to swap storage among various platforms
- Balancing server workloads

Storagetek® solutions
D178 disk subsystem

Related solutions
Macintosh, UNIX and NT servers

Business results
- Improved data access
- Improved productivity and speed of service
- Fewer tapes to manage
- Easily expandable to accommodate future growth

De Persgroep

De Persgroep provides instant access to media archives with mirrored D178 disk subsystem.

Massive amount of data

De Persgroep is one of the largest players in the Belgian media and multimedia markets. The group owns several newspapers and magazines. It also broadcasts commercial television and radio, and provides interactive services.

The editorial teams of the De Persgroep newspapers and magazines as well as the audiovisual and multimedia services in Belgium and The Netherlands produce an enormous quantity of data. In addition, support services, such as advertising, subscription and sales data, and the customer database, require considerable storage capacity. Rapid access to this information is vital for the internal functioning of De Persgroep. The IT department, in turn, has a requirement for disk space for data for the file and print servers, e-mail traffic and the development environment.

Heterogeneous environment

De Persgroep uses a heterogeneous IT environment to store its data, with various Macintosh, UNIX and NT servers supporting separate applications. The most tedious shortcoming of this set-up was, until recently, the impossibility of swapping storage capacity among the various platforms. Due to a lack of flexibility, storage capacity on some servers was under-utilised, whereas other servers were working at full capacity.

According to Johan Van Parys, manager/systems administrator at De Persgroep: "We were looking for a centralised solution for our data storage. Our new system had to be able to share the storage capacity of the heterogeneous platform dynamically, and it needed to be efficient to manage. Because our data doubles in volume every two years, scalability was also an important requirement.

"We imposed high standards in the choice of our supplier. Technical know-how and expertise are, of course, essential. In addition, the market position of the supplier was extensively screened, in the interests of guaranteed continuing support of the platform after implementation."

The solution: mirrored D178 disk

"We received proposals from all the leading players in the disk market, and StorageTek was the party that was actually able to meet our storage requirements," said Van Parys.

After painstaking evaluation of the various proposals, De Persgroep opted for the StorageTek D178 disk subsystem. Connecting the servers and their storage systems on a storage area network (SAN), using fabric switches, makes efficient sharing of the storage capacity possible. The SAN provides seamless integration with the existing environment and functions as the backbone for the whole system.

The media group built a second data center, where they set up an identical configuration. This allows continuous mirroring of the data with a view to maximum availability. Using the D178, De Persgroep can now store two times 4 terabytes of data. The system is easy to expand, with a view to future growth in the volume of data. The fast access to information has considerably improved both productivity and the speed of service at De Persgroep.

"The migration from the old to the new system went very smoothly. The specialists from StorageTek implemented the whole solution and configured it, which meant that we could carry out the migration without a hitch," said Van Parys.

"The consultants of StorageTek contributed their input to our thinking about our long-term storage needs," he continued. "Their preparatory study proved that the proposed solution met our storage needs perfectly. Furthermore, during our decision process, we had the opportunity to evaluate the whole set-up in the SAN Interoperability Testing Centre of StorageTek in Toulouse. That confirmed our choice.

"The fact that StorageTek has already been doing innovative work in the digital data storage market for over 30 years is also an assurance for us that our storage supplier is going to be around for a while," Van Parys concluded.

About the StorageTek solution
Designed for demanding enterprise Open Systems online storage environments, the two-gigabit Fibre Channel D178 disk subsystem supports more than 40 terabytes of information. Open, modular architecture offers exceptional flexibility and provides true investment protection. The D178 is offered through a strategic alliance between StorageTek and LSI Logic Storage Systems.

The D178 allows better service delivery through faster access to information and response to customer questions or concerns. It is possible to manage growing online storage requirements cost-effectively with pay-as-you-grow scalability up to 40 terabytes. Downward compatibility from one product generation to the next helps customers avoid costly forklift upgrades and protect original investment.

Productivity can be increased through the centralised capabilites of the D178. With the D-Series software suite, you achieve single view, non-disruptive storage management from any location. Fabric login support and multi-host heterogeneous support enable SAN implementation. With the D-Series software suite, D178 can be shared as a SAN resource while you can rely on secure, dedicated online storage.

About De Persgroep
De Persgroep is one of Belgium's largest multimedia companies, with a turnover (revenue) of EUR 277 million. The company is active in newspaper and magazine publishing, commercial television and radio, free sheet publishing, Internet and sms (short message service). In each of these business activities, a brand of De Persgroep is Belgium's market leader. The Belgian media market is highly competitive, so many new initiatives and ever-changing demands are made on De Persgroep's various business units. Currently, 770 employees work at De Persgroep.

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STORAGETEK ®

ABOUT STORAGETEK®
Storage Technology Corporation (NYSE: STK), a $2 billion worldwide company with headquarters in Louisville, CO, has been delivering a broad range of storage management solutions designed for IT professionals for over 30 years. StorageTek offers solutions that are easy to manage, integrate well with existing infrastructures and allow universal access to data across servers, media types and storage networks. StorageTek's practical and safe storage solutions for tape automation, disk storage systems and storage integration, coupled with a global services network, provide IT professionals with confidence and know-how to manage their entire storage management ecosystem today and in the future.

StorageTek products are available through a worldwide network. For more information, visit www.storagetek.com, or call 1.800.275.4785 or 01.303.673.2800.

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