Success Story

AhorraMás Increases Availability and Simplifies its IT Infrastructure with NetApp

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Industry
Retail

The challenge
Modernize storage infrastructure; manage data backup in a fast, simple, and reliable manner; and shorten recovery time.

The solution
Implement two NetApp® FAS920 storage systems.

Benefits
- Greater system and application availability
- Shorter interruption and failure times and increased performance
- Better personnel productivity with higher information availability
- Capability to accelerate backups and recoveries to obtain instantaneous copies

CUSTOMER PROFILE
AhorraMás is a commercial distribution company incorporated in 1979 by a group of retail professionals in Madrid, Spain. At present, it is composed of several companies that serve neighborhood supermarkets with the commercial name of Supermercados AhorraMás. It has more than 180 stores, located in the provinces of Madrid, Guadalajara, Toledo, and Cuenca, which places the organization among the market leaders. Specializing in fresh products, Supermercados AhorraMás combines the sale of brand names along with its own brand. Among its policies, the company emphasizes:

- Specializing in fresh products, with a traditional market environment in which all the personnel participate in attentive customer service
- A young workforce that offers personal and individualized care to customers and participates in continuous training programs
- A policy of continuous reinvestment in order to guarantee the growth of the company and its stability in the sector

(Source: www.ahorramas.com.)

THE SOLUTION
AhorraMás implemented two NetApp FAS920 storage systems, in a cluster, which has a gross capacity of 2TB, dedicated to managing the storage for administration, sales, and warehouse management.

NetApp technicians installed the NetApp FAS920 models, while the IT professionals of AhorraMás performed the networking, the migration of databases, and the connection of the servers in a process that lasted only five hours.
The new NetApp solution is connected to four HP 9000 servers. The company also has a tape library connected to one FAS920 device—installed by the integrator Satec—through which it carries out the backup of the two Network Data Management Protocol (NDMP) systems.

**Consolidation of the systems for better efficiency**

AhorraMás has a 1GB Ethernet network exclusively for storage, with duplication of cards in the equipment and network electronics. They connect two independent storage management systems to the storage platform: one for internal development based on the terminal server and another Telnet-based external development environment, both executable on mobile devices in a new WiFi network.

To the platform the company connects the ERP system (internal development), financial software, and one Edicom electronic data interchange (EDI) station. “NetApp has made it easy for us to achieve a high level of availability in storage management, as well as an important capability for processing and storage for the ERP system, the EDI platform, and accounting solutions,” says Recuenco.

**BUSINESS BENEFITS**

With the new platform, AhorraMás performs the whole system backup using Snapshot copies (instantaneous copies) and by transferring tapes to the library in an automatic and dependable manner. The storage management is fast and flexible, dynamically assigning resources to the different environments.

The supermarket chain has increased its productivity parameters due to greater availability of the information and application systems, supported by greater speed in backups and recoveries, the reduction of failures, and ease in the reorganization of servers.

The NetApp solutions have become the foundation for AhorraMás’s future storage, which includes an upcoming support center.

“The solution is above all simple and quick to install, meeting all the goals we sought. Now a service stop is quite unlikely, and with 24x7 support, which includes substitution of parts and autosupport and test systems, the equipment is monitored continually, and the failing components are substituted with minimum customer participation,” affirms Recuenco.

**SOLUTION COMPONENTS**

**NetApp Products**
- NetApp FAS920 storage system
- NetApp Snapshot™ software

**NetApp Partner**
- Satec (www.satec.es)

**Environment**
- Applications: ERP system, Edicom EDI station, financial software
- Server platform: HP 9000 servers

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