

Customer Profile

Penn National Gaming

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**Jason Stump, Manager of IT Operations
Penn's Argosy Casino in Alton, IL**

Xiotech 3D

CommVault Galaxy Software

Windows environment

Penn National Gaming, the third largest US public gaming company, is consistently experiencing data growth from increased business, company growth and increased requirements for data retention and reporting. In addition, they face a real business need to keep their systems up 24x7.

"We were looking to add additional tiers of storage that could better benefit our company," explained Jason Stump, Manager of IT Operations at Penn's Argosy Casino in Alton, IL, where EAGLE Software assisted in implementing a customized backup and archive solution which included CommVault Galaxy Software and a Xiotech 3D storage array.

EAGLE developed scripts and a program to allow Penn's Argosy Casino in Alton, Illinois, to utilize their SAN (a Xiotech 3D) to implement a LAN-free/server-less backup strategy. The benefit of this backup strategy was to eliminate the impact of backups on production servers, free the LAN from traffic caused by traditional client/server backups, and give the customer on-disk, point-in-time backups. Significant cost savings were also realized by eliminating the need for backup client software and/or open file managers for most production servers.

To implement LAN-free/server-less backups, a dedicated backup server, running standard backup software, is connected to a tape library and the SAN where production server disks are mirrored. During the day, the mirrors are "paused", and a consistent image of the production data from the previous night is available on the backup server for disaster recovery, most restore operations, as well as data for testing and data mining. At 5:00 pm each day, a script runs on the backup server that "resumes" the mirrors, copying only the blocks that were changed since the previous night. At 7:00 pm, the script runs again to quiesce each production server's data as needed, pause the mirrors with the data in a consistent state, mount the copies on the backup server, and initiate a backup to the tape library.

EAGLE wrote a special program to quiesce data on servers running Microsoft SQL Server 2000. It utilizes Microsoft's SQL VDI (Virtual Device Interface), which allows the mirrors to be paused in a consistent state without stopping SQL or impacting applications using that data. This can also be done with Exchange Server 2003, as well as other VSS "writers", on Windows Server 2003 utilizing VSS (Virtual Shadow-copy Services).

"EAGLE Software has done a tremendous job supporting the solution that was implemented," explained Stump. "EAGLE's technical team was available anytime to assist any problems or questions that we had. EAGLE had the necessary knowledge to complete our backup scripting with ease. I would definitely recommend EAGLE to any company who had similar needs."



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