

Valmesa Can Restore Operations in Less than 4 hours with SANRAD Global Data Replication

“Disaster Recovery and virtualization are a critical part of our overall IT strategy. We needed to replicate our data and services to a remote datacenter in order to start our core services in 4 hours or less in case of a disaster in our main datacenter. We also needed a solution that would be resilient to transient network failures in the replication path and that would give us the ability to create a flexible virtual storage and server infrastructure. SANRAD clearly offered the best DR and virtualization solution.”

Victor Rodriguez Cortes, Valmesa

The Customer

Valmesa is one of the largest property and asset valuation companies in Spain. Their aim is to provide maximum satisfaction, meeting the needs and expectations of their clients for property valuation, valuation of commercial premises, buildings, building sites, estates, offices and factory premises.

Valmesa understands the value of information technology, so the company uses a combination of IT and personal attention to each one of their property and asset valuations, to maintain the highest level of satisfaction and ensuring that each valuation is done correctly.

The Challenge

Be Back in Business in 4 Hours or Less if a Disaster Occurs

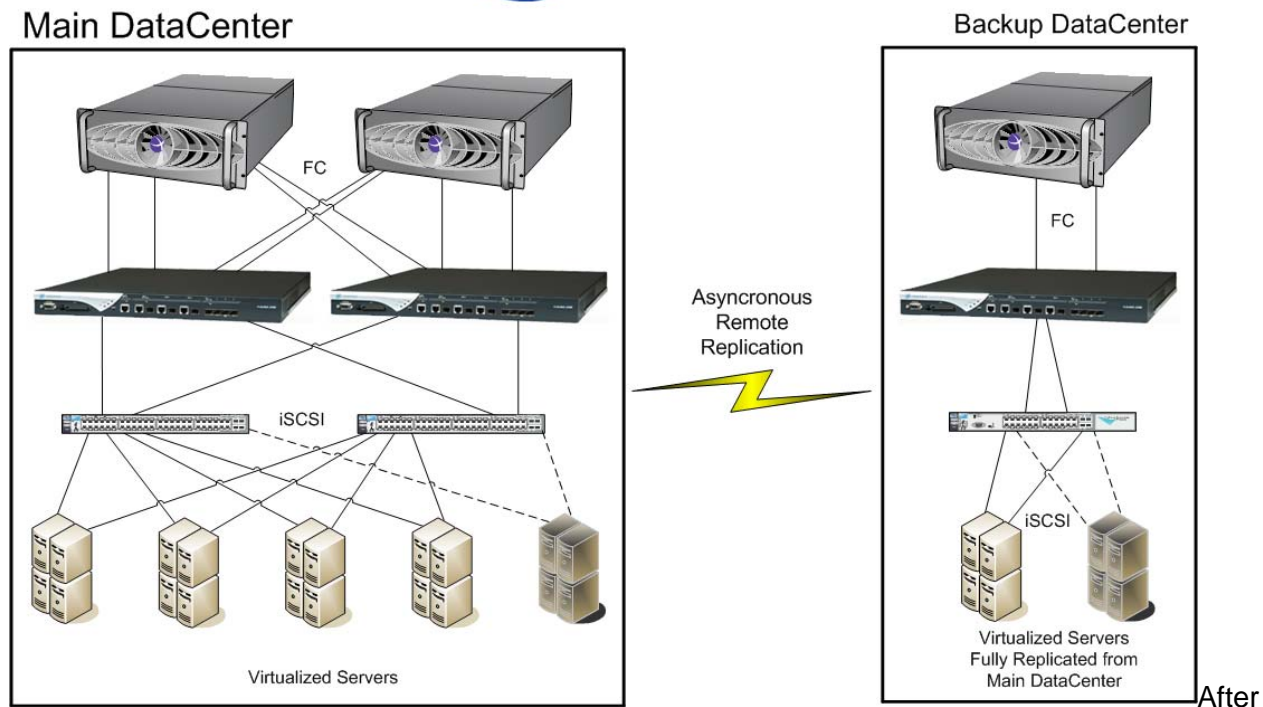
Valmesa needed to address the problem of maintaining all the services in the event of a disaster in their main datacenter to 35 branch offices, around 500 external co-workers and to all their customers. Using just a couple of powerful hardware nodes, the company needs to provide it's services 24 hours each day of the year moving from a direct access storage environment to a solution that provides a fast and easy disaster recovery, capable of allowing them to start their core business services in four hours or less from the backup datacenter.

Another priority was to have their disaster recovery solution virtualized so that they could package each server with all its data and services so it could be replicated as a single entity, but with the flexibility to choose when and how to replicate each of its volumes.

Lastly, the solution had to deal with different bandwidths among both datacenters and be completely resilient to transient network failures, so any problem with the replication path should not force us to do a complete replication of each volume.

The Solution

iSCSI SAN, DR and Virtualization



conducting an extensive investigation of market alternatives that included both software and hardware, Victor saw SANRAD as the “only vendor to provide an integrated hardware and software solution which could offer complete scalability for the storage arrays. Others provided software or hardware but not a complete solution.” SANRAD enabled Valmesa to address their key needs in iSCSI, disaster recovery, and virtualization. Using SANRAD’s intelligent V-Switch with integrated storage management services, Valmesa was able to implement a disaster recovery and virtualization solution using 3 14TB Nexan SATABeast storage arrays, and 3 SANRAD V-Switch 3400s.

With SANRAD V-Switches in an active/active cluster and MPIO, Valmesa is able to maintain the highest levels of data availability and provide disaster recovery for their Microsoft SQL 2000, Email, WEB and FTP servers, as well as to other mission-critical self-developed or legacy applications.

Flytech, S.A., as one of the best storage/networking solution resellers in Spain, provided Valmesa of their knowledge, excellent customer service and support to deploy the total SANRAD solution.

The Benefits

Disaster Recovery Together With Server and Storage Virtualization

SANRAD's iSCSI SAN solution enabled Valmesa to implement disaster recovery and simplify data management through virtualization. "We went from a non-protected direct attached storage implementation to be able to replicate all of our servers to a disaster recovery datacenter and benefit of other storage technologies as snapshots". Valmesa now has a disaster recovery implementation that will allow them to return to business operations in 4 hours or less and the flexibility of a virtual server infrastructure. "With the proper network configuration, we could even move servers from one datacenter to another with minimal downtime".

Valmesa realized many other immediate benefits. Utilizing SANRAD's active/active cluster and the MPIO features of Microsoft iSCSI software initiator, Valmesa achieved maximum performance, availability, resilience, load balancing and automatic failover. As the company continues to scale, SANRAD's simple one-license model enables Valmesa to expand disaster recovery without worrying about additional server licenses, targets, and/or software costs. Valmesa can also easily expand storage with SANRAD's centralized graphical user interface where changes can be made on the fly and without disruption to the business, even using arrays from different storage vendors and using live data migration to move data among storages.

The SANRAD solution does not depend on operating system drivers, server hardware, software compatibility or operating system reliability, providing Valmesa with the flexibility to implement new applications and operating system versions non-disruptively. "That is the only way to ensure complete compatibility with legacy, actual and future server virtualization platforms and software".