

## Our Experiences With VBAK

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In the beginning...(18 months ago)

## The initial challenges

- A completely unmanaged and unstructured environment
  - 40 to 50 'critical' servers
  - Data all over the place!
- Backup Schedule
  - Purely tape based, variety of formats DDS, DAT, LT01, LT02 etc.
  - Difficult to manage
  - Costly with no guarantee of success
- POOR SERVICE
  - Frequent failures to restore
  - Minimum 1-2hrs effort to restore

Achieve the following very quickly:

- Take care of immediate business
  - Reliable backups with a high confidence level of integrity
  - Improve the service
  - Reduce manual effort throughout the process
- So effort can be focused on..
  - Improving the reliability and resilience of the network
  - Creating some structure and organisation to our data
  - Creating and implementing a long term back up strategy

VBAK helped us to get to this stage very quickly with minimum effort whilst freeing up staff to focus on more value-add work.

Where are we now? (18 months on)

Approx 18 months on, following complete / nearing completion:

- Building data centres on two remote sites with failover and offsite back capabilities for key systems
- Structuring and centralising our student and staff data on Net Apps filers – allowing us to take care of our own short term backups
- Identifying /structuring /migrating systems to more resilient and appropriate platforms (standard hardware, standard OS builds, virtualisation etc).
- Utilising Microsoft Data Protection Manager to manage and backup our Exchange 2007, SQL Server, SharePoint 2007 and Microsoft Virtual Server environments via snapshots held for 30 days.

## What next?

- We now need to address longer term backups (6 monthly, yearly, etc) to meet auditing and legal requirements (i.e. as snapshots of the data at the time).
- We *may* want to ease the pressure on our in-house data backup by storing infrequently accessed data elsewhere if found to be cost-effective.
- We don't want to be tied down to maintaining an outdated technology just so we can restore seven year old data.
- We don't want to revert to backups on tape.

Possible solutions we are investigating are:

- InTechnology VBAK Plus & Data Archiving Service
- In-house solution comprising storing long term data off-site via a partnership or hosted service.

**Questions ?**