

CASE STUDY



ACCESSOR CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

ACCESSOR

Summary

Accessor Capital Management has a reputation for strategic use of technology and exceptional support services for investors. Consistent with that distinction, Accessor assures the safety and integrity of its data by turning to NSI® Software's Double-Take®. Award-winning Double-Take, goes beyond data replication, enabling Accessor to have 99.99% system availability. With efficient and transparent failover, Accessor has maximum protection from data loss, unimpeded flow of operations, and continues to advance its record for protecting client assets and information.

"In today's age of computers and 'solutions' it all comes down to people," said Shawn Huey, Systems Engineer. "NSI's focus on Disaster Recovery and skilled, responsive service is unique, and the result is a superior product."

Accessor Capital Management protects Client Investments with Double-Take

Accessor Capital Management in Seattle built its business on trust, offering a diversified family of no-load mutual funds primarily to institutional investors that include small banks and discount brokers. Effective July 2001, SEC regulations require that investment institutions protect data and assure soundness of client

transactions and funds, and have the technological capability to recover from disasters and do business without interruption. Consistent with its reputation for exceptional technology and support services, Accessor Capital met SEC requirements well ahead of schedule. They turned to NSI to advance its technological edge.

Accessor wanted a disaster recovery plan that would enable them to recapture data and resume operation without hesitation in case its primary data center became unavailable. They had one predominant criteria: they needed a backup of their data in a different geographic location for maximum protection and data had to be protected off-site automatically, continuously and nearly immediately.

The company considered several alternatives. Big recovery companies offered 'hot sites' that required leasing floor space for recovery equipment. The problem: lost time and lost data. Other vendors required access to the firm's information. Accessor was unwilling either to share confidential client data or to pay the prohibitive costs.

"With Double-Take, we have the assurance of data integrity, and a smooth, rapid transition to back up if the primary server is down," said Ms. Huey. "The combination of Data Recovery and High Availability is a huge cost-savings for us."

Ultimately, Accessor Capital turned to NSI Software. Double-Take allows a secondary server to stand in automatically for the primary server so operations resume with minimal interruption. Accessor Capital chose to house a backup server within a 45-minute drive of its Seattle office. The location was close enough for staff to reach it easily, but far enough to assure adequate

protection of data and operations. A robust network architecture and available bandwidth provided the foundation on which NSI built its solution.

About NSI Software

NSI Software is a leading provider of data replication technology and services. Providing high-availability, enhanced back-up, and disaster recovery solutions across geographically dispersed networks. NSI Solutions are hardware independent and protect a wide range of server and storage architectures including SAN and Windows Powered NAS devices.

Real-time Replication and High Availability

To meet stringent SEC requirements, Accessor Capital had to be efficient in selecting a comprehensive continuous data availability and seamless failover solution. Accessor wanted to protect data integrity and transaction capability if its primary server went down.

“We’ve always had tape back up,” said Shawn Huey, Systems Engineer. “But tapes don’t run continuously, so they can’t provide up-to-the-minute data. In addition, restoring from tape is an uncertain and time-consuming task. With Double-Take we have complete information and rapid recovery.”

Double-Take monitors changes to open files as they occur and replicates only the modifications. Replication occurs in the background, in real time. Because the main server continues processing at full capacity, users notice no interruption. The result is maximum protection from data loss and unimpeded flow of operations.

“An outage could be very costly,” said Ms. Huey “but with Double-Take, it’s no longer a significant problem and we can assure our clients of continued quality service.”

Double-Take goes beyond data replication, enabling Accessor Capital Management to have 99.99% system availability. Failover is efficient and transparent. The result is High Availability--less than fifty minutes of down time a year. System users continue working without any awareness that failover occurred.

Flexible, Effective, Easy-to-Use

Double-Take is uniquely flexible; supporting a wide range of software, back office functionality, and hardware configurations. The benefits surpass data backup. Double-Take facilitates server upgrades and migration to new hardware platforms and OS versions because it reduces downtime, assures data is sound, and enables continued operation with minimal stress and risk.

“We’re redesigning our network architecture yet we can continue to operate without interruption,” said Ms. Huey. “Without Double-Take, there would be extra work, server downtime, and some risk to data while we migrate. Double-Take supports migration to the new platform at minimal cost and minimal risk.”

Double-Take’s ease-of-use has compounded its benefits. With Double-Take’s management console installed on remote administrative workstations, tasks from initial configuration to ongoing monitoring and even recovery can be monitored and managed remotely minimizing administrative time as well as user delays and data loss.

“Another especially useful feature is the capability for manual intervention,” said Ms. Huey. “If there’s a brief interruption, like the email server going down for periodic maintenance, instead of failing over, we can just click to continue.”

Double-Take also gave Accessor Capital a custom scripting feature to support failover and to manage replication to maximize processing capabilities.

“Running a high-powered utility could mean excessive demand for CPU capacity, but because of Double-Take’s low processor utilization, the implementation has enabled us to manage replication and failover gracefully,” said Ms. Huey.

Unsurpassed NSI Software Service

NSI Software’s unique focus on and commitment to disaster recovery results in a product optimized for successful deployment and the ability to provide extraordinary service. Accessor took advantage of NSI’s professional services team to implement Double-Take. Well ahead of the SEC deadline, Double-Take was protecting Accessor data and assuring uninterrupted operation.

The Double-Take Advantage for Accessor Capital Management

- Continuous and immediate off-site data protection
- Efficient use of resources including network bandwidth and CPU
- Complements and enhances existing tape backup strategies
- Improved data availability
- Easy to use, remote management and monitoring
- Flexible configuration simplifies growth and change
- Scalability
- Skilled service from NSI Software professionals dedicated to disaster recovery

“NSI’s focus on disaster recovery and service is unique,” said Ms. Huey. “It means a superior product and a distinct level of service and customer focus that just isn’t available from companies that split their attention.”

“Double-Take isn’t the first solution we tried,” said Ms. Huey, “but it is the final choice. With this level of service and quality of application, Accessor doesn’t have to look further to be sure we continue to give our investors the best service.”

For more information on NSI Software’s products, please contact NSI.

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