

CASE STUDY



SUNDT CONSTRUCTION, INC.



WITH NSI SOFTWARE XCELERATE PARTNER SYNEGI



Summary

Sundt Construction, Inc., one of the leading construction companies in the United States, built a reputation of doing the impossible and doing it well. Employees need on-demand access to mission-critical data. NSI® Software's award-winning Double-Take® assures Sundt that its data is protected and accessible.

"A rolling blackout or earthquake could cost us \$145,000 a day in lost productivity if our people do not have access to a mission-critical application on our server. With NSI Software's Double-Take, even disaster can't keep us down for more than 5 minutes; access is uninterrupted." Robb Good, Vice President, Director of Information Systems, Sundt Construction, Inc.

Sundt Builds Business with NSI Software and Double-Take

A highly secure nuclear reactor complex. A threatening forest fire. The fire was stopped, but it had already destroyed vegetation and soil that provided natural controls for runoff during the rainy season. The heavy rains were only a few months away, posing a flood threat to the reactor complex. The

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers called on Sundt Construction to build a 390-foot long, 66-foot high dam that would avert disaster, and to build it fast. In 63 days, security-cleared Sundt crews rappelled or hiked to the site, built the dam, and kept the flood waters at bay.

Sundt Construction, Inc., achieves the impossible for others, averting disaster, building communities. Sundt turned its skill and savvy inward and saw the need for technology protection and availability that would allow business continuance in the face of disaster. For High Availability and Disaster Recovery, Sundt turned to NSI® Software and Double-Take®.

Business on the Edge

"We have become increasingly dependent on technology for day-to-day operations," said Sundt Vice President, Director of Information Systems Robb Good. "For contract and project management, all our people rely on an industry-specific and mission-critical application hosted from one of our major data centers in Southern California. We always had a tape back-up solution in place, but what we did not have was a solution to provide 7/24 availability."

"If our server goes down, Double-Take will easily pay for itself within the first two hours. For us, that makes Double-Take an insurance policy with a great return on investment." Robb Good

In the summer of 2001, California faced an energy crisis that forced ‘rolling blackouts’ across the state. The events of September 11th further heightened sensitivity to the threat of disaster.

“Our biggest concern,” said Mr. Good, “is our Southern California office is built on a 200-foot cliff that sits directly on the only known active fault line in the area...a fault line that is more than 35 years past-due for a quake.”

To assure operations would always continue uninterrupted, Sundt turned to NSI Software and Synegi, Inc., an NSI Software Xcelerate Partner that focuses on navigating companies and individuals through technology. With NSI Software’s Double-Take, Sundt is assured of superior failover capability and Disaster Recovery.

About NSI Software

Established in 1991, NSI Software, together with its partners, delivers award-winning data replication and high availability solutions. NSI Software products, including Double-Take and GeoCluster™, enable companies to recover quickly and easily from disasters, and continue to provide business-critical information for demanding customer environments. NSI Software’s patented technologies reduce downtime, protect data and applications, and keep businesses running across geographically dispersed networks. Industry leaders Dell, HP and IBM have selected Double-Take as the replication engine of choice for their NAS and server devices.

The Need for High Availability and Disaster Recovery

In over 100 years of service, employee-owned Sundt has built a reputation that made it the top contractor and most admired business in Arizona, as well as a national industry leader. With headquarters in Tempe and one of two major data centers in Southern California, Sundt and its 1200 employees provide general contracting, construction management and design-build services throughout the United States and internationally for private and public sector clients on projects ranging in values from \$50,000 to more than \$100 million.

Sundt showed considerable foresight when it came to business continuance. In addition to tape back-up, the company had distributed IT infrastructure over several offices. But when Sundt upgraded their project management application, Prolog, to its SQL version, they discovered it was not truly SQL compliant. Using SQL replication on the Prolog databases corrupted them and prevented Sundt from accurately reproducing the critical data that was on the Southern California server.

Maximizing Sundt Resources

Research led Mr. Good to NSI Software’s Double-Take and NSI referred a variety of qualified consultants to assist with Sundt’s deployment. After interviewing several firms, Sundt chose Synegi of Irvine, California, to help implement Double-Take.

Upon reading the Double-Take white papers, the Sundt IS team envisioned a solution that not only would enable High Availability and rapid recovery, but also would make the most of Sundt’s existing resources, saving thousands of dollars in the implementation.

Typically, a company can assure High Availability with a back-up server that only replicates data, and is immediately available in case of a failure. Disaster Recovery requires the added measure of moving data out of the area to a different fault zone. In this standard arrangement, getting both High Availability and Disaster Recovery in two distinct sites like Sundt’s Arizona and Southern California data centers would usually demand six servers.

The Sundt IS team assigned to this project envisioned a solution with only four servers. They wanted a two-way flow of data, making production servers do double duty as Disaster Recovery servers.

“Sundt is leveraging a production server at both sites, using the Arizona and Southern California servers for Disaster Recovery without needing two standby servers sitting idle,” said Tim Zimmerman, Senior Account Executive of Synegi.

Efficient Protection

Synegi worked with Sundt to architect a unique arrangement that allows the exceptional use of resources that Mr. Good wanted. Sundt owned two SQL servers before implementing Double-Take. Two additional servers enable the complete solution.

Double-Take is a real-time data replication and failover software product that works asynchronously, with minimal impact on existing network and communication resources. After the initial data has been copied, only changes are replicated. Sundt has the local servers--one in Southern California and one in Arizona--back up for high availability. Simultaneously, the Southern California server replicates to the remote server in Arizona, and vice versa. If the target server reports an error, failover can occur in 25 seconds—efficient, transparent business continuance.

Double-Take Keeps Sundt Running

- Assured business continuance
- Disaster Recovery
- High Availability
- Automatic failover
- Resource-efficient execution
- Cost effective implementation
- Improved productivity

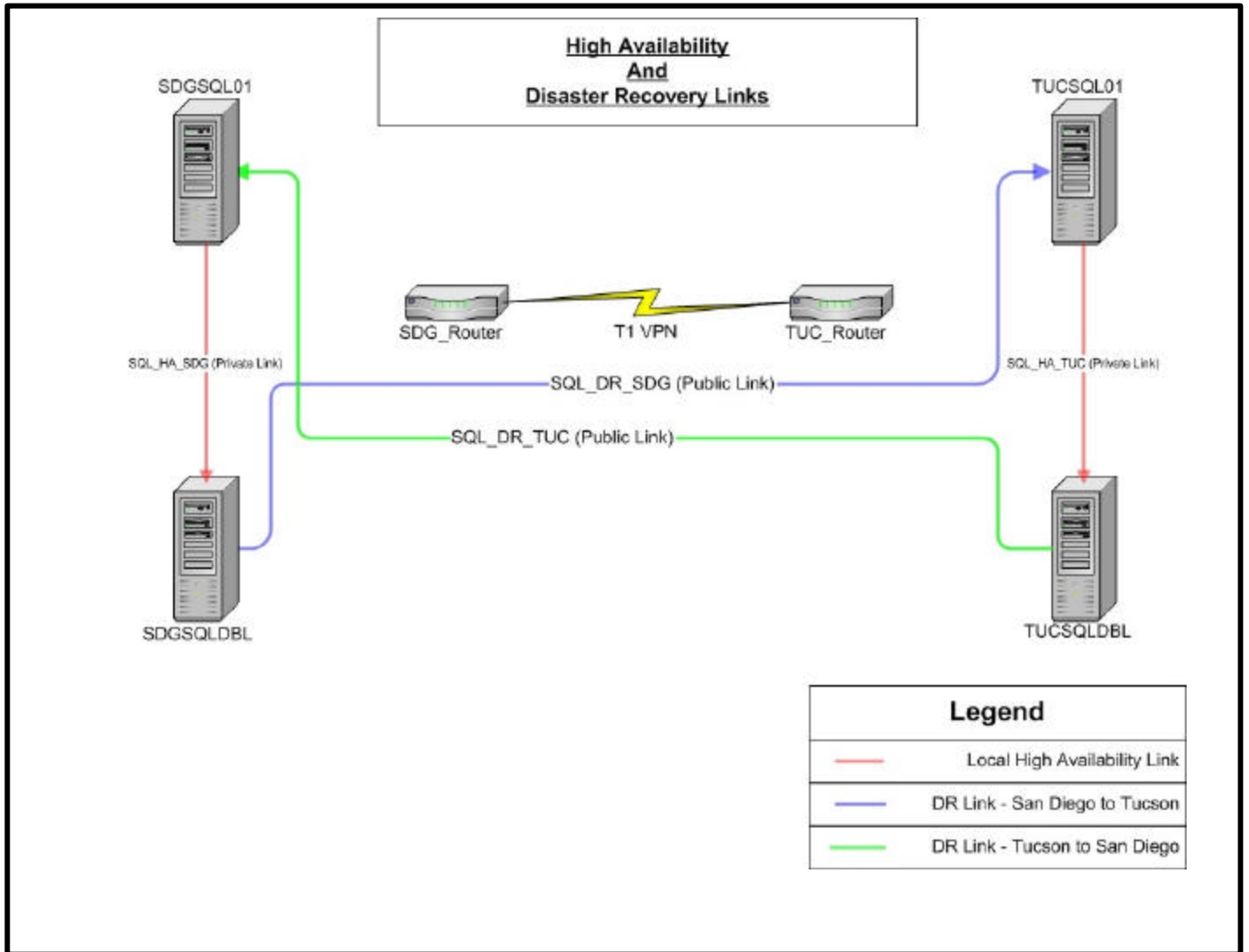
Sundt is now replicating twenty-two databases between Southern California and Arizona using Compaq Proliant ML series, running Windows® 2000 and SQL 2000, using a T1 VPN line between the locations.

Rapid Implementation of a Flexible Solution

Implementation of Double-Take took less than one week, including testing. The unique, resource-efficient execution showcases Synegi’s skill and underscores Double-Take’s flexibility and ability to provide a highly available solution.

Sundt laid the groundwork for a successful project and a long-term business relationship by making expectations and goals clear from the start. Synegi cemented the relationship by implementing Double-Take and delivering the optimum, unique solution in skillful collaboration.

“It’s clear that Double-Take would replicate in any environment,” said Mr. Good. “As our technology continues to evolve, we’ll continue to rely on Synegi, NSI Software and Double-Take.”



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

NSI Software - Corporate Office
 Two Hudson Plaza, Suite 700
 Hoboken, NJ 07030
 800-775-4674 or 201-656-2121
 Fax: 201-656-2727

NSI Software – Inside Sales
 8470 Allison Pointe Blvd. Suite 300
 Indianapolis, IN 46250
 888-674-9495
 Fax: 317-598-0187



Or visit us on the web at WWW.NSISOFTWARE.COM