Champion SOLUTIONS GROUP
Evolve to Simplicity

Application Brief

CASE STUDY:
Borgata Hotel Casino and Spa

Borgata HOTEL CASINO & SPA ATLANTIC CITY

Highlights:

BUSINESS
Luxury hotel casino and spa

CHALLENGE
The Borgata Hotel Casino and Spa used physical servers to backup and restore entirely from tape. This traditional tape-only approach involved a complicated restore process and once-per-day backup. There was also high network usage during the tape backup and since the travel industry is a 24-7business, it was difficult to find the "off hours "needed for a server to be backed up without using excessively more CPU and I/O, resulting in overall slower performance.

SOLUTION
By using Double-Take on a VMware virtual infrastructure, Borgata is able to create cost-effective, simplified disaster recovery architectures, provide 24x7 application availability, and follow their daily contingency plan.

RESULTS
Today, Borgata Hotel Casino and Spa can ensure higher levels of application availability through automatic failover using joint solutions from Double-Take and VMware. They provide proven protection for Borgata's business critical application servers by leveraging real-time replication and virtualization technologies to create cost-effective, simplified disaster recovery architectures.

With more than 2,000 luxury rooms, the Borgata Hotel Casino and Spa in Atlantic City offers an unparalleled travel experience on the East Coast. The casino-hotel presents a destination designed to rival those once found only in cities such as New York City and Las Vegas. After igniting Atlantic City's revival with its 2003 opening as the first new hotel property in 13 years and its recent expansion in 2006, Borgata – a joint venture between Boyd Gaming and MGM MIRAGE – has experienced overwhelming popularity and near-capacity occupancy since its debut.

An Unparalleled Travel Experience Requires 24x7 Availability with Secure Servers
Borgata Hotel Casino and Spa always puts their customers first. To create a truly unparalleled travel experience, they rely on the availability of business-critical data in a secure environment. Prior to working with Double-Take Software, if the systems went down, Borgata would backup and restore entirely from tape. This traditional tape-only approach involved a complicated restore process and once-per-day backup. There was also high network usage during the tape backup and since the travel industry is a 24-7 business, it was difficult to find the "off hours" needed to back up a server without using excessively more CPU and I/O, resulting in overall slower performance.

Borgata Hotel Casino and Spa needed a solution that:
- Allowed for 24x7 high availability
- Provided a true, cost-effective disaster recovery solution
- Integrated seamlessly with VMware virtual machines
- Provided real-time data protection with an RPO of near-zero
- Provided both manual as well as hands-free failover

Double-Take Software, VMware and Champion Solutions Group Meet the Requirements
Borgata Hotel Casino and Spa chose Double-Take® from Double-Take Software due to its flexibility in different architectures, its seamless failover process, and the company's solid relationship with VMware. Working with Double-Take Software, solutions integrator Champion Solutions Group and VMware, Borgata is able to create cost-effective, simplified disaster recovery architectures, provide 24x7 application availability, and follow their daily contingency plan.

When evaluating disaster recovery and failover solutions, Borgata was also concerned about the Recovery Point Objective (RPO). RPO is the target a company establishes for acceptable data loss when recovering from a disaster or outage. Borgata Hotel Casino and Spa required a RPO of approximately zero, and only real-time data replication solutions like Double-Take allow a company to achieve that level of data protection.

"Our servers are critical to a truly satisfying customer experience. And because we work in a sensitive environment, we can't afford to lose data or availability due to a disaster or disruption. By using Double- Take for Virtual Systems with VMware's virtualization products, we can continue to work effectively and efficiently – even during a system crash or outage. We don't miss a beat, which is crucial to our mission."

John Forelli,
Vice President of IT Borgata Hotel Casino and Spa

Double-Take Software | vmware premier PARTNER

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How It All Works

VMware virtual machines enable Double-Take to replicate application data from multiple production servers to a single disaster recovery target and failover to the disaster recovery target in the event of an outage. Borgata has 77 virtual machine sessions on six VMware® ESX Servers which Double-Take is used to replicate data, meeting the requirements of their challenging high availability and disaster recovery needs.

Using VMware virtualization, Double-Take can provide failover for all of these servers to one physical machine. The target server (running VMware ESX Server) is configured with four virtual machines – each running the appropriate Windows OS version and application version. During normal operation, the applications are in a "down" state, allowing Double-Take to replicate changes to the protected data to the virtual machines in real-time. At failover time, the appropriate application services are started within a corresponding virtual machine and Double-Take orchestrates the seamless redirection of users from the original production server to the standby server running within a virtual machine at the DR site. This allows the target to provide high-availability for each of the protected servers without running the workloads on the same instance of Windows on the host.

Today, Borgata Hotel Casino and Spa can ensure higher levels of application availability through automatic failover using joint solutions from Double-Take and VMware. They provide proven protection for Borgata's business-critical application servers by leveraging real-time replication and virtualization technologies to create cost-effective, simplified disaster recovery architectures.

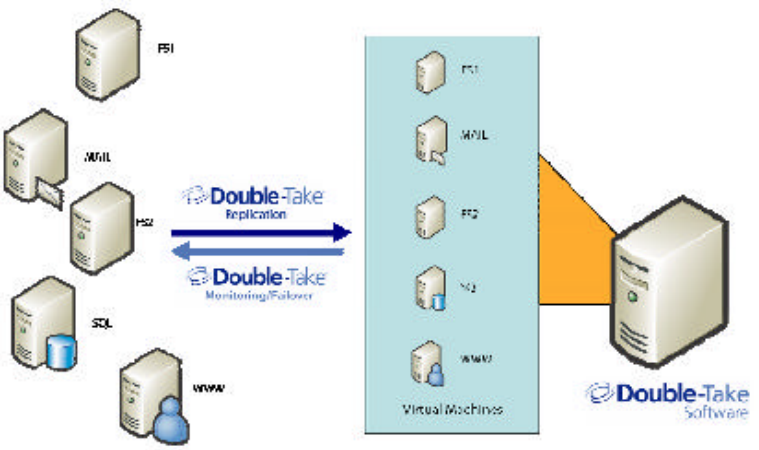

Figure 1 – "Many to One" with virtual machines on the target

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For more information about this application brief or Champion Solutions Group's ability to architect a solution to meet your needs, please call 800.771.7000 and speak with a Champion Solutions Specialist.

Champion Solutions Group • 791 Park of Commerce Blvd., Suite 200 • Boca Raton, FL 33487
Phone: 800-771-7000 • Fax: 561-997-4043 • www.championsg.com