



HP StorageWorks D2D Backup System — Simple, Reliable and Very Affordable

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Management Summary

Backups are a daily part of the life of an IT administrator. When the backups perform flawlessly, the IT administrator rarely gets credit for a job well done. However, if the backups take too long or do not end successfully, then the IT administrator gets the blame.

Many small-to-medium businesses do not have the luxury of having an IT administrator on location. If they do, that person has numerous responsibilities. They are forced by time constraints to be a “Jack of all trades, master of none”. “Jack” must manage the network, install new servers, provide support for numerous applications, and, when time allows, oversee the backup operations.

Small and medium businesses need to protect their data by daily backups. Many of these businesses find their backup process to be time consuming, and time is something that is in short supply. Typically, they have tape drives directly attached to individual servers, requiring each server backup to be managed separately. Managing tape cartridges is a manual, time-consuming process and is prone to errors; human errors are the leading causes of backup failures. Backup failures result in inadequate protection. For example, a file accidentally was deleted today and needs to be restored. Last night’s backup did not complete successfully, so the file, which has been updated numerous times over the last few days, must be restored from an older backup. The owner of the file must determine which updates are missing from the file and manually update the file. The owner is not too happy with “Jack” right now.

While smaller businesses do have the option of implementing automated tape libraries and backup servers to automate these daily activities, many find these solutions too costly for their limited budgets. What they need is a simple-to-install, simple-to-use backup solution that is inexpensive. Storage vendors have produced several products over the last few years to address the needs of smaller businesses. HP has been very successful in developing products for this market. Its Technology Solutions Group has developed products that are simple, affordable, and reliable.

The newest entry in this product line, the *HP StorageWorks D2D Backup System*, matches the criteria established by the Technology Solutions Group. It is simple, it is reliable, and it is *very* affordable. That is great news for smaller businesses that are looking for a reliable way to backup their *Windows* servers. Read on to find out more about this recent announcement.

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HP StorageWorks D2D Backup System

The HP StorageWorks D2D Backup System is a virtual tape product - a disk-based backup system that emulates tape drives or autoloaders. Since it emulates tape drives, virtual tape products can be installed easily, requiring few, if any, changes to the backup application. The last thing that “Jack” wants is to install a more complex solution that requires a large number of changes to his current backup environment. It takes time to investigate these changes, test the changes, and then place the solution into production. Time is not something that Jack has to spare.

What It Supports

The HP StorageWorks D2D Backup System is designed for smaller businesses with direct-attached tape drives that want a fast, automated way to perform backups and an easy way to restore data. It supports up to four Windows servers and connects to the network using a standard Ethernet port. It emulates four LTO-2 tape drives or autoloaders. Don’t have LTO drives installed? That isn’t a problem. The backup application just needs to know that it is communicating with LTO-2 drives configured on the D2D system, not the currently installed, say, physical DDS tape drives. The disk-based backup system comes in two versions – the *D2D110* can store up to 750 GBs of backup data, while the larger *D2D120* system can store up to twice as many backups.

How It Works

Let’s assume you have three servers; each server has its own dedicated tape drive. The D2D110 (or D2D120) system can be connected to the network via iSCSI. Backups from all three servers are now consolidated and directed to the D2D system, eliminating the need for the three stand-alone tape drives. An online management interface allows files to be recovered quickly. In fact, the disk-based backup systems can be managed from remote locations. That can be beneficially if “Jack” does not reside at the same location as the D2D system.

What About DR?

If you normally take the backup tapes to offsite storage for disaster recovery, you can continue to create physical tapes for this purpose. You request that the backup application copy the “virtual” cartridge residing on the disk-based backup system to the physical tape drive. After the physical tape is created, it can be moved to its offsite location. Later on this year, HP will support attaching the physical tape drive directly to the D2D system, which will save network bandwidth.

What It Costs

HP StorageWorks D2D Backup System is *very* affordable. The D2D110 Backup System with *Data Protector Express Software Kit* is under \$3,000. The larger D2D120 Backup System with Data Protector Software Kit is under \$4,000.

If you prefer to keep your current backup software installed, then the cost of the D2D110 System (without Data Protector) is under \$2,000, while the D2D120 is under \$3,000. For a little bit of money, small business can make many of their backups problems simply go away.

What the Future Holds

We expect that HP will continue to enhance the D2D Backup System. Support for direct tape attach will be available later this year. Expect to see other enhancements, such as larger capacities, rack-mounted systems, and replication support in the future.

Bottom line: If you are a smaller business that wants to improve its backup and restore process, then you should evaluate the HP StorageWorks D2D Backup System. It is easy to install and use, it will speed up backups and restores, and it will not “break the bank”. And, it will make “Jack” very happy.



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