

Las Vegas Review-Journal

Stephens Media Group



The Las Vegas Review-Journal in Las Vegas, Nevada is the corporate headquarters for the Stephens Media Group. Focusing on hometown news, the organization owns and operates dozens of businesses. It publishes daily, weekly, and bi-weekly regional and municipal newspapers in eight states, many with both print and online editions. It also produces direct-mail products, classified publications, magazines, and books. Its business model gives its diversified user community the stability of a national organization and the individual editorial freedom to serve the particular needs of each community and product.

LAS VEGAS
REVIEW-JOURNAL[®]
reviewjournal.com

Challenge

To gain the efficiencies of centralized resources, five years ago the Review-Journal IT team began to consolidate data, applications and services (such as billing services) from each local office into a central data center. A 1-TB storage system from a major vendor supported the project, but over time did not flex to meet their expanding needs. Adding another 4 TB from the same vendor proved expensive and equally inflexible. The variety of applications, server platforms, and operating systems made it difficult to design or implement a disk-based backup and restore or disaster recovery system.

"Pillar offers the only system on the market that delivers the type of modular growth and flexibility we were looking for with a sensible pricing model.

We can consolidate many applications into a single system without sacrificing performance for our high-priority data sets.

The AxiomONE AFR and AVR allow us to deploy a robust, homogeneous disaster recovery solution for the first time."

Steven Olson, Infrastructure Manager, Las Vegas Review Journal

pillar[®]
DATA SYSTEMS

Today, the IT staff needs a multi-tiered storage architecture to support the following applications:

- Oracle 9i for back-end Web services
- Apache and J2EE front-end Web services
- Sybase applications on Sun Solaris servers for newspaper production
- Macintosh servers for user authentication and roaming profiles
- Microsoft SQL ancillary applications
- Lotus Domino email, messaging, calendaring, and custom applications
- Check processing and imaging servers
- Consolidate all current user data to support roaming users
- Production archive
- Disk-based backup and recovery
- Disaster recovery

To support all these applications, The Review-Journal needs a storage system that offers flexibility for multi-tier data management and easy scalability for future growth. It wants a robust set of enterprise-class features with simple management to ensure high availability and data protection. As a bonus, it hopes to reduce total cost of ownership (TCO) by giving up the exorbitant licensing fees associated with scaling their current system.

Solution

The Pillar Axiom™ storage system offers the multi-tier storage architecture that the Review-Journal needs in a single, modular system. The Review-Journal and Pillar designed an integrated SAN and NAS architecture that offers the flexibility and scalability the Review-Journal needs without the enterprise cost. Pillar AxiomONE™ Dynamic Performance technology allows a single Axiom system to accommodate email, production, test and development, and archive applications while optimizing performance for individual LUNs and filesystems. During the evaluation phase, the Review-Journal IT staff brought test servers to the Pillar laboratory to verify that the Axiom was interoperable with their variety of platforms and operating systems (including Apple Macintosh servers) and data formats.

The Review-Journal supplements the foundational Axiom system with Pillar AxiomONE Volume Replicator (AVR) and Pillar AxiomONE File Replicator (AFR) to enable data protection, backup and restore, and disaster recovery systems. Their any-to-any interoperability is ideal for their multi-platform environment, allowing The Review-Journal to consolidate replication services for easier, secure management.

Why Pillar?

- **SAN and NAS in a single system** – allows The Review-Journal to provision LUNs for certain applications and filesystems for others within one array
- **AxiomONE Dynamic Performance technology** – enables a robust multi-tier environment without compromising performance of individual tiers or data sets
- **Cost-effective scalability** – adding capacity is a straightforward addition of Bricks without additional licensing fees
- **Simple management** – rapid provisioning and intelligent management capabilities reduce time spent on routine tasks, give IT more time for strategic projects
- **Reduced TCO** – the Review-Journal can reduce management expenditures while maintaining enterprise-class availability, features, and performance

Results

The Las Vegas Review-Journal is confident that the Pillar Axiom storage system, the AFR, and the AVR deliver the optimized performance and data protection it needs to support its businesses. The system allows its IT staff to align its storage resources with business objectives, offering flexibility of resources at a sensible cost. The heterogeneous platform support of the AFR and AVR make it possible to deploy a comprehensive disaster recovery solution for the first time. Consolidating all user data from the dozens of remote offices into a central storage site enables it to provide its user community with greater data integrity than they could before. It also plans to use the Axiom platform for virtually all of its production and archive storage, front-end Web services, disk-based backup and recovery, and Lotus Domino applications.

For More Information:

Visit www.pillardata.com or call 1.877.252.3706.

