MODEL 9

Airline reduces storage costs by eliminating physical z/OS tapes

Airline revolutionizes mainframe backup system with Model9

CLIENT PROFILE

An airline carrier serving over 50 destinations worldwide.

"Moving to Model9 enabled us to completely eliminate tape equipment"

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Until recently, the airline backed up its virtual tapes onto physical tape drives. However, once IBM announced the tape drives' EOS (End of Service), the time had come to replace the outdated physical tape system with a more forward-looking, cost-effective solution. The options on the table included a new virtual tape library (VTL) and Model9's backup and recovery for z/OS. With Model9, the carrier was able to:

- Eliminate all z/OS tape drives, related media and logistics
- Reduce backup storage costs and maintenance by as much as 80% by using commodity storage
- Improve RTO from a matter of days to hours

Passenger and cargo airline

- Faced End of Service for physical tape drives

- Chose Model9 with commodity storage over VTL

Reduces storage costs and maintenance by as much as 80%

Improves RTO from a matter of days to hours

"Using Model9 our MF backup environment is now fully automated, disk-only and aligned with our distributed backup environment"

CHALLENGES

The airline was using VTFM (IBM Virtual Tape Facility for Mainframe) , to create virtual tapes on DASD for their backup and application processes. Then, physical tape drives were used as backup copies of the virtual tapes on DASD created by VTFM. Not only were the tape drives getting old (with their EOS announced by IBM), they also required human attention, cost a lot (in terms of maintenance) and actually slowed down restore times. The time had come for the carrier to replace the outdated physical tape system with a more forward-looking, cost-effective solution. Model9's backup and recovery for z/OS was chosen over all other options, including a new VTL.

HOW MODEL9 HELPED

With Model9's open TCP/IP architecture and powerful compression, the airline now uses commodity open systems storage for backups, dramatically reducing storage capacity needs and costs. In addition, it can now rely on the existing storage replication functionality inherent in its commodity storage to automatically create backup copies at remote sites (instead of having to transport physical tapes). Transmitting the copies to remote sites is cost effective since any commodity storage can be used at the remote site and the compressed data consumes significantly less network bandwidth.

The graphical UI enables administrators to quickly identify and fix backup issues and to secure the data based on the organization's set policies.

RESULTS, RETURN ON INVESTMENT AND FUTURE PLANS

With Model9, the airline was able to:
+ Eliminate all z/OS tape drives, related media and logistics
+ Reduce storage costs and maintenance by as much as 80%
+ Improve RTO from a matter of days to hours

In the future, the carrier may use Model9 to replace its entire legacy backup and restore solution, resulting in:
• Lower storage costs
• Reduced billable MSU consumption
• A more streamlined and simplified recovery process