



aCELERA CASE STUDY

Texon L.P.

Array's aCelera virtual appliance for WAN optimization accelerates storage backup, recovery and replication for disaster recovery, resulting in a 2x to 5x reduction in replication time without requiring additional bandwidth.

Background

Texon L.P. is a leading energy supplier specializing in the purchasing, transporting and marketing of oil and natural gas products. Texon replicates its corporate data from its headquarters in Houston, Texas to a disaster-recovery site in Conroe, Texas. The company was seeking a way to optimize and accelerate its data transfer in order to keep its replicated data more current without incurring additional network bandwidth expense.

Challenges

Texon L.P. needed to decrease the time required to replicate some 50 GB of data per day from its corporate data center to its replication site over the wide area network (WAN) using a Dell EqualLogic storage area network (SAN).

Industry:

Energy

Challenges:

Optimize and accelerate data transfer to keep replications more current without additional bandwidth expense

Minimize disruption to the live network while installing the new solution

Solution:

aCelera WAN Optimization Controller virtual appliances in the headquarters site and the disaster recovery site

Benefits:

Immediate two to five times decrease in replication times without adding bandwidth

Replications stay current throughout the workday to meet Recovery Time and Recovery Point Objectives (RTO/RPO)

Email replication was increased from 9.8 GB to 15.4 GB, while associated transfer times dropped from 18 hours to 9.5 hours

Easy installation, requiring only about 30 minutes at each site

Leveraged existing virtualized infrastructure

Due to the issues that arose when replicating large amounts of data over the WAN, such as high latency, network contention and low bandwidth, Texon's replication process was so inefficient that, at any given time, its replicated data was four to six hours old.

Solution and Results

The company set a goal to keep the replicated data more current without incurring the cost of adding additional network bandwidth and explored different options to achieve this goal. Ultimately, Texon selected Array's aCelera virtual appliance, which allowed the company to dramatically reduce its replication time, avoid expensive bandwidth upgrades and leverage Texon's existing virtual infrastructure.

Before choosing aCelera, Texon explored a variety of hardware-based WAN optimization products. However, the company's IT staff was concerned about the time and complexity of installing these products, needing to minimize the disruption to the live network. Additionally, the IT staff was concerned with the costs of these hardware-based products, which were three to four times more expensive than the aCelera virtual appliance.

Texon found that aCelera was easy to install, requiring less than 30 minutes at both its headquarters and replication sites. Upon installing the software, Texon saw an immediate two to five times decrease in replication time without adding any network bandwidth. For example, when replicating email, aCelera significantly increased the amount of Microsoft Exchange traffic Texon was able to replicate from 9.8 GB to 15.4 GB and associated transfer times dropped from 18 hours to 9.5 hours.

Noted Sean Brown, Sr. Network Administrator for Texon, "With aCelera, we have been able to significantly increase our effective throughput

without having to purchase additional bandwidth. aCelera allowed us to stay current in our replication throughout the day at a fraction of the cost."

Benefits

aCelera is available as virtual or dedicated WAN optimization appliances that dramatically reduce data replication, backup and recovery times and lower network bandwidth requirements for business continuity. In performance tests of specific business continuity applications, aCelera reduced full data replication times by up to 97 percent* while decreasing network bandwidth requirements by more than 95 percent*, saving

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Sean Brown
Sr. Network Administrator, Texon L.P.

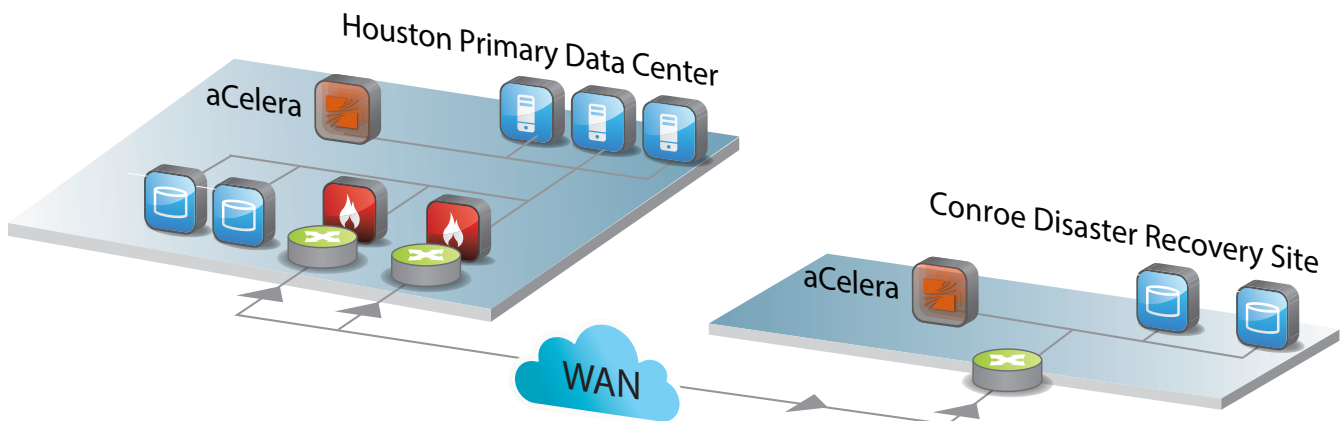
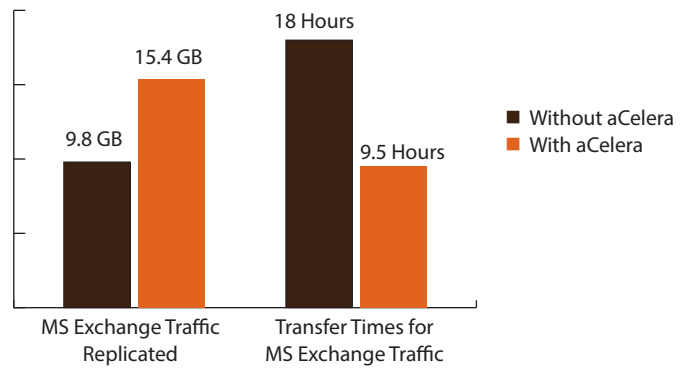
on costly purchases of incremental bandwidth. aCelera is deployed symmetrically at the data center, remote offices and mirrored sites. aCelera can also be configured to support high-availability environments commonly found in business continuity infrastructures.

The aCelera virtual appliance enables more efficient data replication and backup through a virtual infrastructure. It is an ideal solution for enterprises looking to quickly and efficiently back

up their most valuable asset, their company data, in record time while reducing network bandwidth consumption. aCelera reduces the backup and replication times of many of the industry's leading backup, recovery and replication solutions. Supported backup, recovery and replication solutions include, but are not limited to, products from the following companies: CA XOSoft, Commvault, Dell Compellent, Dell EqualLogic, Double-Take, EMC Celerra Replicator, EMC SRDF/A, FalconStor, Hitachi HDS, HP LeftHand (HP P4000), IBM Tivoli Fast Back, IBM Tivoli Storage Manager, NetApp SnapMirror and Symantec NetBackup.

Summary

aCelera is the perfect union for virtualization and disaster-recovery strategies to optimize data replication. The product provides enterprises with high performance, scalability, flexibility and easy management. aCelera enables IT managers to gain the full value from virtualized environments by maximizing virtual machine performance and system resources.



*Acceleration results may vary based upon traffic type, network contention and configuration.