

Leading Publisher of Video Games Gets High Availability and Disaster Recovery Protection using SonaSafe Solution



Ubisoft not only wanted to protect their SQL servers at three different countries around the globe but also wanted high availability and disaster recovery capability. Ubisoft used SonaSafe for SQL Server solution to provide reliable failover and failback capability.

Situation

Ubisoft is a leading producer, publisher and distributor of interactive entertainment products worldwide and has grown considerably through a strong and diversified line-up of products and partnerships. Ubisoft has offices in 21 countries and sales in more than 50 countries around the globe. It is committed to delivering high-quality, cutting-edge video game titles to consumers. Ubisoft generated sales of 680 million Euros for the 2006-07 fiscal year.

Ubisoft 's SQL servers are spread across three cities in three countries, namely, Montreal – Canada, Paris – France and San Francisco – USA. The data was growing rapidly and Ubisoft wanted to have data protection and high availability for SQL servers housing the databases.

Solution

Database growth is critical for Ubisoft; the size of the production database is 150GB and is growing at a rate of 6GB each month. Besides taking more disk space, it also creates a challenge when transferring this large DB from Montreal (production data center) to Paris or Montreal to US via the network. To get a better compression rate, the customer tested several different tools including CA-XOsoft and Sonasoftware. Sonasoftware application not only gave the customer a better compression rate, but it also provided a good backup and disaster recovery solution. Sonasoftware replicates databases at a data level and before it applies the data to the target database, it validates the data to avoid any database corruption, whereas, other solutions replicate on a file or byte level. Therefore, during the replication process, other solutions don't verify whether the data is corrupted or not.

Business intelligence (BI) and Data warehouse (DW) are very important in this technological era. Due to heavy volume and activity on the production system and to avoid any data contentions, customer's DW ETL (Extract, Transform, Load) jobs were limited to run only once a day. Using Sonasoftware replication process, the customer was able to setup an hourly replication of the

Solution Overview

Customer Profile

Ubisoft is one the leading publishers of video games in the world. They have offices in 21 countries and developed many blockbuster games including Brothers in Arms, Prince of Persia and many more.

Business Situation

Wanted high availability, failover and failback capability for SQL servers.

Solution

The company leveraged SonaSafe's backup/recovery and standby capability to offer reliable data protection

Benefits

- Excellent compression
- Reliable data protection
- Centralized management
- Quick failover/failback capability

Software and Services

Microsoft Windows 2003 Advanced Server
Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Standard Edition
SonaSafe for SQL Server 3.8

Hardware

The production environment relies on:

- 1 Intel Xeon 2.0GHz (Dual Option Available), 133MHz BUS, 1GB SDRAM
- 1 Sony CD-ROM - IDE 52x Enhanced IDE
- 1 Controller - IDE RAID 3Ware Escalade 7506-8 ATA
- 4 x 200GB ATA-100 IDE Hard Drives

production database to a secondary backup database, where DW ETL jobs can run every hour, hence avoiding any database blockages on the production database and also enabling BI team to provide more accurate reporting.

Benefits

Life Before Sonasoft

The Database is growing by 6GB per month, and currently at 150 GB mark, which takes more disk space and time to backup and restore the database. Due to high activity on the production database, data warehouse ETL jobs to extract data from production server were only launched once a day to produce business-critical reports. Due to large database sizes, cloning test environments with a copy of production database was not possible on a daily basis, thus making support activity difficult for the support and development teams. The only disaster recovery solution in place was located at the same geographical location, right next to the production environment, so if the data center went down, then there wouldn't be any access to the system from either production or disaster recovery environments.

Life After Sonasoft

After implementing Sonasoft's SonaSafe solution as the backup and disaster recovery tool, Ubisoft was able to accomplish the following:

- ▶ Implement a real Disaster Recovery solution; if the production server or even the data center is down, customer can bring the system back online in a timely manner.
- ▶ Data warehouse (DW) gets refreshed every hour, hence, providing more accurate and up-to-date reports for the business stake holders.
- ▶ Due to more current and accurate reports in DW, users launch fewer queries in the production system, therefore, less contentions on the production database and application.
- ▶ A daily refresh (or Clone) of the production environment is available in US, to troubleshoot users requests or resolve bugs.

Why Sonasoft?

"We were looking for an affordable solution to protect our databases. We tested many products and selected Sonasoft's SonaSafe solution because (i) Replication is done on a data level and it verifies/validates data before applying on the target database; (ii) Sonasoft's solution provides both data protection and disaster recovery at one fourth of the cost; (iii) Sonasoft provides excellent customer service" said Amir Shafi, Sr. Manager, Business Applications, Ubisoft.

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Amir Safi
Sr. Manager, Business Applications
Ubisoft

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Sonasoft Corp. automates the disk-to-disk backup and recovery process for Microsoft Exchange, SQL and Windows Servers with its groundbreaking SonaSafe® Point-Click Recovery® solutions. SonaSafe is the only product that provides an integrated backup/recovery and replication solution for Exchange and SQL servers. Designed to simplify and eliminate human error in the backup and recovery process, SonaSafe solutions also centralize the management of multiple servers and provide a cost-effective turnkey disaster recovery strategy for companies of all sizes. *For more information, please visit www.sonasoft.com.*