

China News Service

Case Study

NexentaStor Provides Remote Two-way Data Synchronization Services for China News Service Project

Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and Beijing
www.chinanews.com
Media



Summary

Challenge: Provide efficient two-way data synchronization management solution

Solution: NexentaStor

Platform: Dell

Use Case: Synchronization

Benefits:

- High service capacity and scalability
- Efficient data synchronization
- Enormous cost saving

Business Overview

China News Service is a large news communication agency with a target audience of overseas Chinese, foreign-nationality Chinese, and compatriots in Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and Beijing. The agency provides news releases for domestic and foreign media agencies. Its website, The Pacific Times, mainly serves overseas Chinese by providing advice and life service information.

Challenges

With its readers scattered across a wide geographical area, the center needs to provide access, read, and write capabilities at local sites as well as synchronize data between different sites to ensure the service's regional independence. The China News Service needed a two-way data synchronization system with a simple structure, powerful functions, and easy management. It wanted to start by rolling out phase 1 of the new system to just two sites – Hong Kong, Beijing and Melbourne, Australia and other cities around the world – in order to verify the effectiveness of the solution.

For phase 1, China News Service wanted the system to synchronize files generated in Hong Kong to Melbourne and vice versa, as quickly as possible. Maintaining data synchronization under a single common file system across multiple sites is complex. China News Service needed a solution that could provide remote synchronization of multi-site data, flexible synchronization of business planning and document control, and an effective file control capability to avoid mistakenly overwriting different versions of files. Remote data synchronization also requires replication optimization, to reduce the amount of data transmitted and shorten the transmission time. The center also required a solution that did not rely on highly qualified, trained IT personnel. Easy operation and maintenance, with minimal human intervention, was essential.

Solution

The Pacific Times selected Nexenta partner Dell to implement the NexentaStor solution. With a Dell server as the NAS controller, Dell set up a NAS system in Hong Kong and Melbourne. It provided the NAS controller at each site with the corresponding directory permission and data synchronization strategy. The corresponding business host is directly mounted with its respective NAS shared folder.

NexentaStor AutoTier service efficiently provides two-way data synchronization. A unique feature supports incremental data transfer and so greatly reduces the amount of data transferred. When online data deduplication and online data compression are both enabled, the amount of data transferred is further reduced, saving precious WAN bandwidth resources.

NexentaStor AutoTier provides a flexible remote data replication service. It can execute at a specified time, and execute only once or periodically. The minimum synchronization interval of AutoTier service can be set to one minute. For the overseas center, AutoTier service synchronizes offsite data every three minutes.

The NexentaStor solution provides a fully graphical wizard-driven interface to complete configuration of complex operations. The graphical user interface eliminates the need to hire trained professionals to manage the solution.

Benefits

With the Nexenta solution, the China News Service synchronizes files between its sites in near-real-time. The solution provides access, read, and write at local sites, which are not affected by data synchronization. The efficient remote data replication capability of NexentaStor AutoTier minimizes the amount of data that needs remote synchronization and meets the center's synchronization time requirements.

The unlimited scalability of Nexenta data capacity, directories, and number of files makes for a high-ROI, future-proof solution for the continuous expansion of the China News Agency. With an open x86 hardware platform and a fully graphical wizard-driven interface, the Nexenta solution reduced the center's initial investment, and also saves future maintenance and management costs.



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