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moonwalk

Aurecon
A Global Engineering Company

Global Engineering Company Achieves Substantial Reduction in Storage TCO with Moonwalk.

Aurecon provides engineering, advisory and project management services for public and private sector clients globally. With a history dating back to 1932, Aurecon has an operations network extending across twenty six countries and has been involved in projects in over eighty countries across Africa, Asia Pacific, the Middle East and Americas. Aurecon employs around 7,500 people over 11 industry groups.

With two main data centres and a geographically distributed office network, keeping this data distributed throughout the offices makes the effective management of these data sets a very expensive challenge, particularly with respect to both production storage and backup media.

The existing storage environment is predominantly EMC including SAN and CENTERA Object Store devices.

The Challenge:

Managing Project Data in a Geographically Distributed Organisation

Aurecon generates a large amount of unstructured data ranging from Microsoft Office and project management style documentation through to engineering design files and large 2D/3D modelling data sets. Being a project oriented organisation means that Aurecon needed to adopt a varied approach to data lifecycle management.

There is also a major compliance factor particularly in the area of contract, design and drawing where the data needs to be kept 'in perpetuity' to varying degrees depending upon contract and legislative requirements.

Addressing the Problem

"Having recently performed a storage refresh, we were able to define a cost per MB on our production, archive, DR, and backup data sources" said Aurecon's Manager, Design & Infrastructure." Then, by using Moonwalk initially to analyse the unstructured data, we were able to determine several things. Firstly, we were able to plot the exponential growth rate of data over the next five years with a degree of confidence. Secondly we could see that more than 50% of our current data was more than two years old – and suitable for immediate archive using Moonwalk".

A sound understanding of data holdings is key to determining the best way forward and most importantly, to determine the Return on Investment to be achieved through implementation of a data management solution.

> **"** Using these statistics allowed us to calculate that the cost of moving the data that was older than two years to the cheaper archive storage tier would only cost 30% of what it would be to leave that data on the production storage and cater for the ongoing backup of that data. **"**

In fact this showed a Return on Investment in approximately 18 months across the storage tiers."

The Selection Process

Aurecon invested time and effort in the selection process. Using a detailed specification requirement the company entered into an evaluation process across a number of products. This process involved

running the various products in a Proof of Concept environment to test how the software behaved and to confirm suitability.

Aurecon commented "Most of these products were not able to natively cater for the cross referenced drawing files and documents that are core to our business" .

Aurecon highlighted that there are significant advantages attached to the unique architecture of Moonwalk. "Moonwalk has a very light weight footprint. We were able to complete the design, the implementation, and transition as a live operational service within a few weeks."

Moonwalk – An Enterprise Data Management Platform that just "Loads and Goes"

In November 2012, Aurecon in Melbourne moved to its new building, the Aurecon Centre in the Docklands.

Prior to the move, they decided to use the Melbourne office as the Moonwalk pilot site and do a little stress testing in the hope that this would mean less data for the Infrastructure Team to physically relocate when relocating the office.

"We moved about 12TB down the primary WAN link in an initial four week period but it took us a little while to understand how to really utilise the link size, we learnt quite a bit in that time about tuning the Moonwalk software to find the sweet spot."

Moonwalk can be tuned to take the most effective utilisation of the network and/or to work most cooperatively with other users' application software.

Aurecon commented "Obviously you want to push as much Moonwalk data down your link as you can but you don't want to negatively affect other traffic on that link, so we spent some time with getting the balance correct.

"Then over that quiet period Christmas provides us, we deployed Moonwalk to all remaining sites. We learnt how to really 'smash' our WAN links and were able to ingest over 90TB of data in to our Centera Archive Storage.

"Data is now archived on a continuing basis according to Aurecon's data management policies".

Moonwalk from an Operational Perspective

Given Aurecon's global footprint there is quite a variety in WAN link sizes and eligible data for archiving across the various sites. According to Aurecon, "The beauty of Moonwalk is that once you have tuned the 'walkers' to the sweet spot for that link size/utilisation, it's almost a case of set and forget.

"Staff impact is negligible. We will occasionally see some delay in retrieving large files over distant and small links but we have strategies for effectively managing this.

"All Moonwalk traffic is encrypted. Whilst this is a fundamental requirement to ensure data security and integrity, it also bypasses the WAN acceleration infrastructure. The Moonwalk team will be working with us to see how we might address this and achieve maximum possible throughput across our WAN infrastructure.

About Moonwalk

Moonwalk's enterprise data management software delivers metadata-level precision for all information on network storage, servers and clients. It proactively migrates, copies and moves data according to user-defined rules and policies based on criteria such as age, size, file type, file name, file creator and many more granular classification rules.

Moonwalk operates across and between all major file systems, including Windows, NFS, Linux, Novell and NetApp environments, and all primary and secondary storage environments. Its stateless architecture requires no additional overhead and is completely transparent to users and applications, with no introduced points of potential failure to ensuring maximum performance and availability.

> **"** From an overall data management perspective, we have far greater visibility on the file server data now. It no longer feels like the elephant in the room that no one wants to acknowledge. **"**

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About VCW Security

VCW Security specialises in the distribution and marketing of IT security solutions and services to end-user companies via the reseller channel. VCW Security is different to other companies. Instead of simply replicating existing products at a lower cost, the company has successfully pioneered many new and innovative technologies and challenged the market dominance of established vendors.

A wide range of products and services are offered from leading edge, non-competing vendors that help define the market and ensure higher margins for channel partners, all of which are recognised for the delivery of next generation security management solutions. VCW Security only works with a select group of channel partners that have a proven track record in the markets in which they operate. This ensures limited competition, a cleaner more qualified channel and no erosion of margin.