



**Sony PetaSite Tape Library Solution Protects Data at Temple University**



**Sony PetaSite System with SAIT-1**

In an academic and research environment like Temple University, dependable backup and protection of stored data is essential. A Sony PetaSite® tape library helps guard the integrity of the university's enterprise-wide stored data and provides easy recovery of that data should an IS disaster occur.

Centralized computing services at Temple support the university's academic and administrative populations. The role of IT at Temple has evolved over the past few years to encompass more of the university's technical operations such as email, online course hosting, data backup and recovery, teleconferencing, and a new ERP initiative.

Data backup processes safeguard a range of stored information, including research data for faculty/ administrators, students' course data, administrative and student web sites, and a variety of back office data, such as the university's document imaging data.

"About the only types of data we do not back up to the PetaSite system are payroll, grades, and medical data" said Stan Horwitz, Temple's senior systems manager, responsible for managing Temple's data backups, backup hardware (Sun Solaris 10, Red Hat Linux, and NetWorker 7.4.1), plus data recovery services.

Temple's PetaSite system was first installed in August 2004. "At the time, we realized we had outgrown our current tape library and we began to look at options to add more tape library capacity," he said. "Our existing library worked well, but it had reached capacity, its throughput rate was slow, and couldn't be expanded. We also wanted to generate fewer media sets, thereby reducing media handling and making it easier to recover the backup files following a potential disaster. I recommended we get a new tape library that was easily expandable as far as the number of the drives and slots it could house. We wanted a backup medium that could at least store one day's worth of our email backups and had maximum throughput to tape. The PetaSite system with SAIT-1 had the best specifications for our needs at that time."

According to Horwitz, the school initially purchased a base cabinet with four SAIT-1 tape drives. Since that time, he and his team have added two more cabinets, and the system now has 14 SAIT-1 tape drives and more than 900 tape slots.



"We still haven't completely filled it with data cartridges though," he added. "We back up roughly 300 servers and 3-6 TB per day to our PetaSite's 14 tape drives," Horwitz said. "What I like most about the PetaSite system is the rock solid reliability of its robotics. It's been around two years since the last time we upgraded it and it's been running continuously without interruption."

Horwitz added that frequent DR audits are done by Temple's Office of Information Security where a server is selected to recover. The system manager for that server then uses the PetaSite system via NetWorker software to recover the data to a spare server.

"So far, the PetaSite has a 100 percent success record in those DR audits," he said.

Looking to the future, Horwitz believes the PetaSite system will be able to grow with Temple, as the university's data needs change and expand. "Although SAIT-1 media will be at the end of its life soon, I expect to keep our PetaSite system for the future and convert it to LTO-4 to get many more years of use out of it."

That type of expandability and flexibility are keys to his group's continued use of this tape library.

"Our reliance on backing up our data is critical and it's only growing more so," he said. "The library itself just keeps working and working and working. I don't have to do anything to it. It's been two years since the last time I touched it and that was only to add another tape drive to it. It's an enterprise-class device in our eyes."



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