



## University of Notre Dame's Center for Research Computing Employs Sony PetaSite System

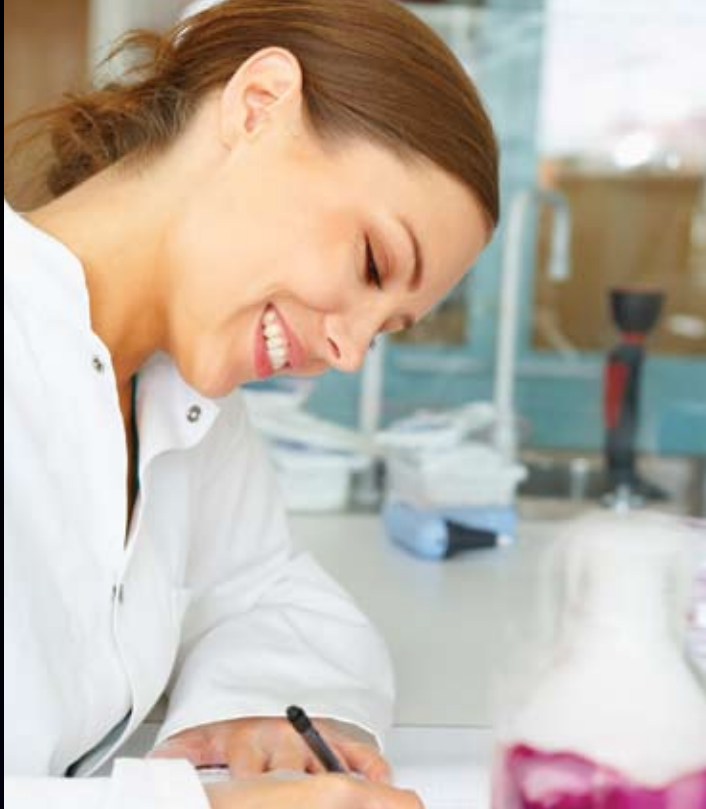
For researchers at the University of Notre Dame, mitigating the risk of lost data is crucial. That's one reason why the University of Notre Dame's Center for Research Computing (CRC) chose Sony's PetaSite® tape storage library for backups.

"Our focus is on a centralized approach to research computing," said Rich Sudlow, high performance computing engineer at the Notre Dame's CRC, which supports the University's supercomputer storage and research infrastructure.

The University is a member of The Northwest Indiana Computational Grid, a partnership consisting of researchers and educators at the University of Notre Dame, Purdue University-Calumet, and Purdue University-West Lafayette. This consortium, Sudlow said, couples mutual interests among the three campuses with national science and research initiatives, builds a cyber-infrastructure that supports the solution of breakthrough level problems, and enables continuing world-class advances in the underlying technologies of high performance computing.



**Sony PetaSite System  
with LTO-4**



Such a reliance on data requires a storage system that's secure, reliable, dependable and easy to use. That's why in March 2008, the University installed the PetaSite system, rolling out a CSM-200B and CSM-200C system with three LTO-4 tape drives.

"We've migrated from a single 'monolithic' machine approach, to an environment where we're almost now exclusively clusters," Sudlow said. "There's also been a change in how we approach technology, from jobs that once could only be done on supercomputers to now tasks designed for individual workstations."

According to Sudlow, the University has run on a version of the AFS platform for nearly 19 years, and decided to stay with that technology for much of its research-specific infrastructure. The University's CRC recently installed Teradactyl TiBS back-up software, and realized it was time to upgrade its storage to a more expandable library that could grow with the university as its data management needs increased.

"We looked at four different systems," he said, "and the Sony PetaSite was chosen basically because of comments from other customers, who all regarded it very highly. We've also been happy with the LTO-4 drives, in terms of their quality and compression capabilities."

The PetaSite system installed now has three drives, with 600 slots that currently hold 300 tapes.

The system is used to store a wide variety of research data, as well as providing back-up for the University's newest cell, and there are approximately 300 users currently storing data on the system.

"We are running automated daily backups of our CRC cell, and we get all our daily reports from the system, with backups made as they happen," he said. "It just works. I thought we'd have a lot of start-up issues. I didn't believe a Sony customer at another major University when he said, 'it just sits over there and it runs. You don't have to do a lot with it.' They were right. For the most part, it's plug and play."

In the few months since installation, Sudlow said his team has used the system mainly for automated backups, and looking to the future, they are confident that the system will be able to grow with them.

"We really did our homework up front as far as knowing how big a system we need for now," he said. "I don't think we're going to need a 6 or 7 rack system but I can easily see expanding to 3 or 4 racks. We know the PetaSite system easily scales to that; we know we can easily add more drives to it. Knowing that type of scalability and expandability is there is a big issue for us."



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