

Backups to disk (experience ?)

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I'm looking for opinions, experience, etc., on the relative merits of tape vs. disk backups in an enterprise environment.

Currently, we backup about 100 systems or so, a total of around 2TB/week, give or take. It's all to DLT7000 tape right now. We're not looking to go to another media right away, but you gotta start somewhere. Obviously, even if we backed up to disk, we'd still clone to tape for offsite DR storage.

Our backup environment is Sun, if it matters, but we backup Unix, Windows, Novell, etc. We'd like to stick to our current software (Sun's rebranded Networker).

Like I mentioned above, we're not going to switch tomorrow, but are there any major things to think about? Some that come to my mind are :

- * Capacity flexibility of a disk farm (or arrays) vs. removable media
- * How is fragmentation at the saveset level handled (not at the filesystem level)?
- * I tend to think we'd probably be trading "problems for issues", e.g., tape errors for design and implementation issues. Hopefully, media errors would be negligible with disks

Our retention needs (usually) are pretty short, on the manner of less than two months.

Any opinions?

Thanks.

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