Business Challenges

The risk of server down time causing interruption to business activities

The risk of their clients' data loss due to human error or natural disasters

XLink Solutions

Automatic failover and failback with DNS redirection for cross-network connection

Real-time, open-file data and registry file replication for continuous data protection

Built-in backup utility for scheduled local and remote file backup

Business Value

Ease of configuration and deployment for Windows systems that saves users time and money on server management and maintenance

The elimination of business loss due to server downtime preserves high rate of customer satisfactory

XLink's ClusterReplica Software Ensures High Availability and Continuous Data Protection For A Web Design and Hosting Service Company

Vanguard Computer Systems, Inc. (www.vanguardcomputers.com) offers Server co-location, web hosting/design, offsite backups and image archival services to the Medical, Legal, Restaurant and Corporate industries. With 45 servers, redundant OC3 Fiber Backbones, 6 SQL servers and a 1 gig network infrastructure all contained in their modern climate-controlled facility, Vanguard must ensure that it meets its target of 100% customer satisfaction through minimal server down-time and fast, professional technical support. Because it has, its clients have grown to thousands spreading up-and-down the east coast and across the US.

To ensure it meets its demanding standards, Vanguard has a dedicated team of technical specialists highly trained in the Microsoft Windows environment.
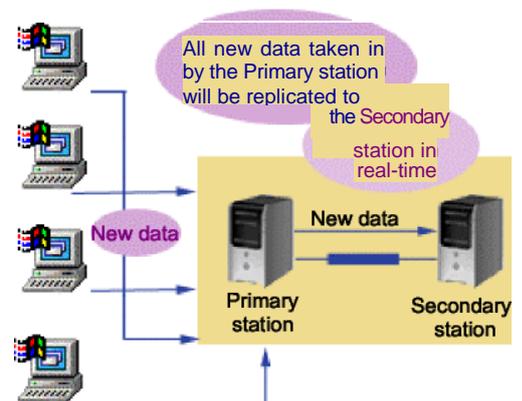
The New Challenges

Following the recent series of hurricanes and other natural disasters, Vanguard has taken steps to provide disaster data recovery for its clients. "Most if not all of our corporate client base will be migrated to clustering for either SQL or standard for 100% up time - we are looking forward to their setting up DNS failover to our secure data centers so they do not have to keep the backup server on site -providing yet another layer of protection", explained Anthony Pennacchio, President Of Vanguard.

Meeting its goal of continuous data protection and server 24x7 availability, gives Vanguard demanding challenges, specifically:

1. Having hundreds of web sites on each of the servers, it needs an application that can handle IIS web server 24x7 availability.
2. Because most of its clients are physically far away from the service center, the clustering must be able to handle cross-network failover.
3. Data replication must be able to work in real-time to minimize data loss.
4. Data replication must be able to handle files of all types including the MS SQL database files which many of its clients use for their business operation.

Vanguard has lived up its promise to its clients in providing proactive solutions to their business challenges. Its new challenge is to provide Disaster Recovery and Failover protection. Reaching this next level of customer satisfaction, requires an innovative response.

All new data taken in by the Primary station will be replicated to the Secondary station in real-time

New data

New data

Primary station

Secondary station

Evaluation

In their search for the most effective data protection and server availability software application, Vanguard stipulated that the solution must be able to meet the following challenges:

1. ability to handle real-time data replication including database files
2. ability to perform automatic server Failover
3. ability to handle remote clustering for both LAN and WAN systems

Besides these technical requirements, a cost-effective product and proficient technical support are equally important to Vanguard. They insisted that their supplier be able to offer effective and rapid technical responses to the inevitable issues that they knew would arise.

There are many software applications in the market that could provide some of the solutions Vanguard was looking for. After extensive research, they selected Xlink Technology's Cluster-Replica software. ClusterReplica software is specially designed for small to medium sized companies, or departments in large organizations. It binds two Windows nodes for data replication and server failover purposes. It comes in SQL and Standard editions for specific database and web server replication functions. The auto-configuration attribute makes the software exceptionally user-friendly. Anthony Pannacchio, described ClusterReplica as "an effective solution that actually works out of the box!" This ease of use linked with XLink's "timely, accurate and helpful technical support" sealed the order.

The XLink Solution

Cost-effectiveness is the key difference that distinguishes XLink's ClusterReplica from its competition. While supporting all the major features that other similar products claim to support, XLink's ClusterReplica software costs only a fraction of their price.

"I was skeptical at first, however when our main server failed, we were not even aware of the failure since XLink failed us over seamlessly"

- Anthony Pennacchio
President, Vanguard

Here is a simple comparison with Double-take a popular competitor

Functions and Benefits	ClusterReplica	Double-take
Report-Querying on Secondary (Read-Only Mode for SQL server)	9	9
Multiple Failover detection (Monitored Service failure, NIC failure, System failure)	9	9
Registry Replication	9	9
Floating/Fix Primary ClusterSystem Design	9	9
Additional Backup support to local or offsite location with added FTP support on both systems	9	9
Selective failover options via Cluster IP, Cluster Name or DNS Redirection(WAN environment)	9	9
Replication to local drives of the Primary station	9	9
Easy to configure	9	8
Cost-effective	9	8

XLink
Technology, Inc.

Server High Availability, Continuous Data Protection Solutions

- ClusterReplica Enterprise
- ClusterReplica SQL
- ClusterReplica Standard
- EzOpenBackup Plus!