

Express Computer

UNDERSTANDING STORAGE CHALLENGES

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EVENTS

TECHNOLOGY SENATE



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Sanjeev Kumar, Group CIO & Group President (Business Excellence), Adhunik Group of Industries and Tejinderpal Miglani, CIO, Indiabulls

UNDERSTANDING STORAGE CHALLENGES

Over breakfast, CIOs shared their experiences and thoughts with regard to enterprise storage and how the issues that they faced could be addressed

The Power Breakfast By Dell saw 18 CIOs assemble to share their storage challenges and insights on dealing with the same. The first point to be tabled was that of the rapid growth of unstructured data—a tough challenge to deal with. Dheeraj Sinha, Head - Corporate Management Services, Apollo Tyres Ltd., commented, "While structured data is easy to store, I have no handle on the growth of unstructured data in my organization."

Thangaraj M, CTO, BHEL, concurred, "Data growth is so haphazard that CIOs have little idea about provisioning storage."

According to Joydeep Dutta, CTO, ICICI Securities Ltd., "Our storage calculations often go wrong and we end up

overprovisioning storage."

However, opinions differed at this point. Yashpal Soni, CIO, Everest Industries Limited, said that, if there was a comprehensive storage policy in place, then a CIO wouldn't have to worry about buying storage. Rather, he said, his major concern was with regard to having a storage infrastructure that was highly scalable.

Storage backups also formed a large part of the discussion. Sebastian Joseph, President - Technology & FM, Mudra Communications, said, "Archival and backup has become complicated as storage needs are rising."

Tejinderpal Miglani, CIO, Indiabulls, said, "We have to maintain voice recordings for every call made to a broking cus-

tom. Consequently, we capture and store recordings from 2,000 telephone lines for about five hours a day. Currently, we are storing data on disks but we are struggling to find a cost-effective way to do so." He added that, with the exponential rise of unstructured data, organizations would end up with islands of storage, which was a scary situation.

"The biggest challenge is to backup the storage. You require two parallel systems and you always need to backup the same. We need to arrive at a stage where storage can be addressed with minimal backup," said Sudesh Jain, Sr. Vice President, Transport Corporation of India Ltd.

Managing storage across multiple locations, especially in the case of M&A deals was a common woe. Sanjeev Kumar, Group CIO & Group President (Business Excellence), Adhunik Group of Industries, said, "We run SAP and are running different systems at different locations and are, therefore, struggling to manage huge amounts of data with active retrieval."

Satish Warrier, CISO, Godrej Industries Ltd., corroborated this by saying, "In the case of an acquisition, migrating a simple thing like e-mail requires a lot of upgradation."

"In the case of M&A activity, the IT team has no clear idea of the amount of data, until it actually happens. For us, the data suddenly multiplies," observed Vandana Avantsa, CIO, Motherson Sumi Systems Ltd.

Vipin Kumar, Group CIO, Escorts Ltd., said, "Is it possible for me to have a single console for multiple sources and storage points of data?"

Parna Ghosh, Division Head - Strategic Information System, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India Pvt Ltd., said, "Visibility across storage is required from a day-to-day monitoring and support perspective."

The rapidly changing technology landscape was another issue raised. According to S Ramakrishnan, AVP - IT, United Breweries Ltd., "We have a lot of data that we don't know what to do with because the plans under which it was stored do not exist anymore."

Vinay Mehta, CIO, Escorts Construction Equipment Ltd., concluded, "Changes in technology have been rapid and data backups taken five years back have to be re-backed up."

Vivek Joshi, CTO, HDFC Securities Ltd., asked, "What happens if your storage vendor gets acquired? What happens then, to your contract and support availability?"