

Park City Mountain Resort (PCMR) encompasses 3,300 acres, 3,100 vertical feet, nine bowls and eight peaks offering Signature groomed runs, bumps, powder, trees, terrain parks and the Eagle Superpipe, one of North America's largest superpipes. PCMR was one of the venues for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. PCMR is owned and operated by POWDR Corp, a Park City, UT based company that owns a number of resorts in the western US including Alpine Meadows and Boreal Ridge in California and Mt. Bachelor in Oregon.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Park City Mountain Resort is responsible for managing a majority of the IT infrastructure for the different POWDR Corp resorts. This entails developing the overall IT strategy and hosting key applications for their sister properties. PCMR had begun to assume the responsibility for managing and hosting all customer transaction activity and storing this critical data at the PCMR data center in Park City, UT. Hosting these applications and bringing the data in-house had already begun to put a strain on resources and increase the amount of data that needed to be backed up daily. This amount of data was estimated to continue to grow at a rate of 10-20% per year as more transactions were handled and additional resorts were brought online to the centrally deployed applications.



PCMR had been using a 40/80GB DLT tape autoloader running Veritas Backup Exec 9.1 to backup their data at the time this project was being rolled out. This method of backup had recently been deemed inadequate for their internal needs because of numerous failed backup and restore jobs as well as having their nightly backup run into the next morning when users were on the network. It was no secret that this system was inadequate and something needed to be done to increase the speed and reliability of their backup routine. Fixing their backup issues was especially important as they began to assume more of a central role in hosting applications and key data for the other POWDR resorts.

Kenny Lentz, IT Director at Park City Mountain Resort, was tasked with integrating all of these additional applications and data from their sister resorts and making sure that all the resorts could easily access this data as needed. This included coming up with a solution that could handle backing up the increasing amount of data that would need to be stored in their data center. This solution would need to be able reliable so that data could be accessed from historical and offsite backups. Speed was also a concern because data would need to be backed up completely each evening and would need to be restored quickly in the event of data loss.

Kenny and his staff had researched available options and realized that some form of disk to disk backup would be required to backup their data. Slow backup and restore and quickly getting data back could easily be addressed by staging data to disk or D2D backup.

However, another component of this project was having a sound disaster recovery plan that incorporated a reliable method of storing data offsite. Most of the D2D options that he had looked at still required tape of some form to take their data offsite. One example was a Dell/EMC solution that allowed him to store their data to disk however, this solution still required him to use his existing DLT tape backup or upgrade to a newer and supposedly faster form of tape backup to get the data offsite.

Kenny needed fast backup and restore, reliability and the ability to store his backup data at a remote location. He could not risk being in the situation where Park City or the other resorts needed critical data from his local storage or offsite backup forcing him to go to an old tape to get that data back.

THE SOLUTION

Park City Mountain Resort implemented the Idealstor FrankeNAS backup solution and Ibac Data Protection Software to backup and store their critical data. The FrankeNAS is a multi-functional backup and storage solution that combines redundant RAID5 storage and ejectable disk backup into one complete solution. The FrankeNAS that PCMR and POWDR Corp implemented had 1.1TB of SATA RAID5 storage capacity that could be used to store their data locally attached to the network. This unit also contained 2 Idealstor ejectable bays with total backup capacity of up to 2TB native per bay that could be used for offsite storage by physically ejecting the disks to be stored offsite just like tape.

The FrankeNAS provided Kenny all that he was looking for. He was able to run his backups to the SATA RAID portion of the FrankeNAS which enabled him to store 5 days worth of full backups in this system. He accomplished this by using Ibac Data Protection Software and the Backup Versioning Module (BVM). Ibac software is developed by Idealstor and gave PCMR an alternative to Veritas Backup Exec by providing a complete backup and restore solution that could backup all of their servers, including open file and database servers in the time that was required. Ibac backs up data in its native format making restores simply drag and drop without requiring a separate restoration to be done to access the backup data.

Once the first full backup or baseline image has been run, Ibac only backs up the changed files since the last backup and saves them in a separate folder corresponding to that specific backup. This is done by using Ibac Backup Versioning Module or BVM. Ibac then links the unchanged data to the baseline image so that users can open any folder and have access to that incremental data as if it were a full backup. This essentially provides users the speed and storage requirements used to run an incremental backup, with the end result being a full backup that can be used to restore a specific full backup or individual file. By using BVM, PCMR was able to store an entire weeks worth of backup to the redundant SATA array in the FrankeNAS and have this data locally accessible for when it is needed.

Once a month, PCMR runs another backup job to the ejectable disks and then removes those disks for offsite storage in place of tape. Kenny purchased a set of disks that can be used for offsite storage. Each disk comes with a protective storage box which PCMR uses to send the drives offsite for disaster recovery and offsite storage purposes.

"We had spent a great deal of time researching this project and came across nothing that could compare to this solution." said Kenny Lentz at PCMR. "We needed a solution that could store our data, back it up quickly and provide us with fast reliable media that could be retrieved from offsite in case of disaster. The FrankeNAS with Ibac provided all of these requirements for us and we were able to deal with one company for the entire solution."

