NeoTech Solutions Inc.
Network Support Specialists

NeoTech Solutions Case Study

INDUSTRY
Construction

KEY ISSUES

- System needs to be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

- Systems need to stay available during maintenance or in the event of a hardware failure

- All systems need to be available for use even in the event of a major disaster

- Technology costs must be controlled and kept to a minimum

SOLUTION

- Implement a new server infrastructure with virtualization technology to make servers hardware independent

- Utilize NeoTech "Warm Site" services to make sure that systems would be fully available even if the systems were completely destroyed in a disaster

- Utilize NeoTech monitoring and management services to verify that the warm site is always up to date and ready for use

Branco Enterprises implements disaster tolerance of their critical business systems by utilizing redundant server virtualization and NeoTech Solutions "Warm Site" services.

By migrating critical business systems to fully redundant server virtualization technology, Branco Enterprises and NeoTech worked together to ensure network reliability and provide consistent system access to all of Branco's workforce. To protect the enterprise in the event of a major disaster, Branco implemented NeoTech's "Warm Site" services which allows all critical systems to be fully available from NeoTech's secure underground data center within minutes of a disaster.

The Challenge

Branco has been building for over 80 years. Founded under the name of Branham Construction in 1933, the company was incorporated under the name of Branco Enterprises in 1976.

Over the many years of being in the construction business, Branco has built strong relationships with Architects, Engineers, and clients. These relationships are earned through the skill, honesty, quality, and hard work put forth by their team on every project. Their commitment is to utilize their experienced staff, equipment, technology, and "fast track" capabilities to complete every project on time and on budget.

Meeting this commitment requires technology that they can depend on to be ready and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The challenge is to make sure that this availability target is met every day, even if a major disaster should strike, all while keeping the information systems budget in check.

In short, Branco didn't need a plan to recover from a disaster. They needed to be fully disaster tolerant.

The Solution

Branco partnered with NeoTech Solutions to design and implement a new server system. By utilizing virtualization technology and redundant shared storage, the system was designed to remain fully functional even in the event of a hardware failure. There is enough extra capacity designed into the system to allow for system maintenance while the system is running and users remain unaffected.

To provide for full disaster tolerance, NeoTech's "Warm Site" services were implemented. The system was engineered to replicate to NeoTech's secure underground data center. There, the Branco system is fully duplicated on a dedicated virtualization platform. In the event of a disaster that disables the Branco main site, the warm site is ready to take over. Within minutes, the system would be available for Branco users to access and work could continue as usual.

With NeoTech's monitoring and management services deployed at both the warm site and the main site, the system is monitored around the clock. This gives Branco the peace of mind of knowing that the warm site is ready to go any time it is needed.

The Results

NeoTech worked hand in hand with Branco's staff to make sure that the migration to the new system was seamless with as little disruption to the business as possible. Once in place, the system has proven to be reliable, flexible, and performance has been excellent.

The system constantly updates the warm site replicas and reports back to the NeoTech monitoring system. NeoTech's engineers are alerted to any issues that would prevent the warm site from being ready for use. Any issues that arise are automatically scheduled for repair and handled by NeoTech's staff then the results are reported back to Branco.

Included in the monitoring and management services is an annual test to make sure that the warm site performs as expected. We all hope that the warmsite system will never be needed and that an actual disaster will never strike, but the warm site has passed all tests without incident. This regular testing proves and verifies that if disaster should strike, Branco Enterprises will not just recover from it, they will tolerate it and their business will continue to thrive just as it has for the last 80 plus years.