

Accelerating System i backups without changing existing business practices

Backing up System i data is a critical but often time consuming activity. When the server is offline to complete a full backup the services that run on that server are unavailable and the business is losing money. Making sure backups can be completed quickly and easily is paramount. This is why every System i (iSeries/AS400) environment could benefit from Tributary Systems Storage Director. Tributary Systems Storage Director delivers:

- Quicker backups
- Less operational downtime
- Complete transparency
- Better usage of existing tape hardware
Remote replication of data for Disaster Recovery (DR)
- Greater connectivity to a wider range of devices

Quicker Backups

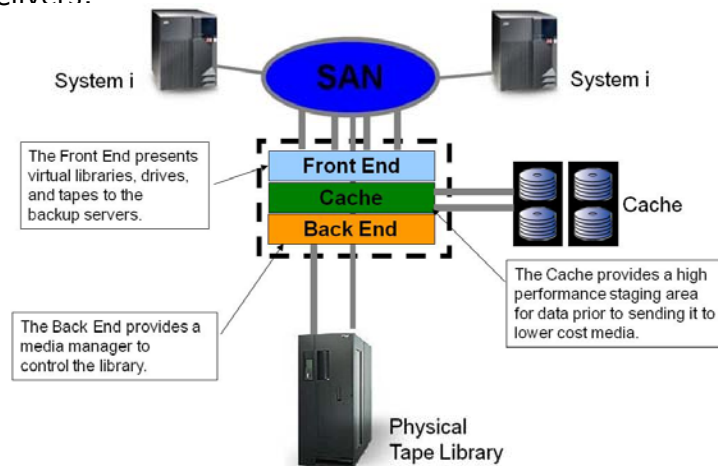
Tributary Systems Storage Director presents an IBM 3584 tape library with LTO drives to System i. These are virtual devices that exist on a high-speed disk-cache that is capable of accepting data far faster than physical tape. By using virtual devices, backups from multiple LPARs (logical partitions) and System i machines can occur at the same time thereby shortening your backup window. Even when only one System i machine is present, you can present as many virtual resources to your System i server as are required to complete the backup in the desired timeframe even if the same number of physical drives do not exist. This means backups happen faster than if you were using physical tape resources.

Less Operational Downtime

By making backups faster Tributary Systems Storage Director ensures that you have less operational down- time. For example, when System i locks the user, system and data libraries until backups are finished, the system becomes unusable. If System i operators in the UK wanted to access their counterpart systems in the US, they would have to wait until backups are complete. When backups are sent to Tributary Systems Storage Director, they can occur in half the time— which means operators can get onto their System i servers sooner.

Complete Transparency

Making backups faster is very important but being able to get your data back even if Tributary Systems Storage Director is unavailable is critical. Tributary Systems Storage Director retains a 1:1 relationship between the volume that BRMS (or any other System i backup application) writes data to and the physical volume on which the data is ultimately stored. This provides a large amount of transparency in the backup process but Tributary Systems Storage Director goes one step further by retaining the native format of the data. This ensures that if you need to restore data even if Tributary Systems Storage Director isn't available that you can do so without worry or difficulty.



Better Usage of Existing Tape Hardware

Getting backups done in a System i environment has historically required one physical tape drive per server and / or LPAR. While this is what is required to get backups done, it means that those tape drives are not being used for a large portion of the day. The drives are not being used efficiently. A better solution would be to have fewer drives but to have them being used more often. This is what Tributary Systems Storage Director offers.

Tributary Systems Storage Director eliminates the need for a 1:1 ratio of IBM i systems to physical tape drives. Instead, multiple servers or LPARs can be supported with one physical library through the use of virtual libraries and tape drives. Each server is presented with its own virtual library and accompanying tape drives, while in reality, data is written to physical tapes consolidated into one physical library. Physical hardware requirements are reduced and usage of those resources is optimized ensuring you have the most cost effective solution for your particular business needs.

And, if you want to consolidate your backups from your Open Systems machines (Windows, Linux, UNIX) into the single physical tape library being managed by Tributary Systems Storage Director you can do that too giving you even greater cost savings opportunities.

Remote Replication of Data for Disaster Recovery

In a traditional System i environment, creating and storing duplicate backups means copying tapes and physically taking them to an off-site vault. Tributary Systems Storage Director enables virtual tapes to be copied over the WAN to another set of virtual tapes presented by another Tributary Systems Storage Director. One site or the other could also have the ability to copy the data to physical tape.

Replicating data to an off-site location strengthens an organization's disaster recovery plan. In addition, cost savings are realized as the dependency on tape storage companies or expensive data replication software is reduced.

Greater Connectivity to a Wider Range of Devices

System i users have had only a limited number of choices for tape libraries and drives. This has limited IBM i users' ability to take advantage of best-of-breed technologies that they may use in their Open Systems (Windows, Linux, UNIX) environments. Tributary Systems Storage Director gives System i users a means of taking advantage of almost any type of storage device while still presenting a known tape library and drives to the server - an IBM 3584 with LTO drives. This gives IBM i users new options and lets them make better choices about what technologies they use to protect critical System i data and, at the same time, gain cost efficiencies by choosing more cost effective storage technologies.

Whether you need to make your backups complete faster, cut down on the time it takes to administer your backups or consolidate backups from multiple servers into a single physical tape library, Tributary Systems Storage Director can help. Let Tributary Systems Storage Director streamline, optimize and simplify your System i backups.

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