

## ***Hervey Bay City Council resolves Storage Consolidation and Disaster Recovery with Hitachi Product***

Twelve months ago, Council's Information Technology team began investigating technology options. The aim was to provide them with a Disaster Recovery Solution for the Council's primary applications and data, in the event of a total destruction of the Council's primary computer room. The Council's research included investigation of a solution for the facilitation of easy storage growth as well as improvement in backup times of all data within the primary computer room.

During the research phase, it was determined that Council could fulfil its requirement to build a failover site at one of their existing sites and provide the ability to replicate data in real-time, using a SAN (Storage Area Network) architecture. This enabled the Council to address their Disaster Recovery, storage growth and back up requirements in one solution. After evaluating SAN offerings from several vendors, the Council selected two Thunder 9570V Storage controllers, and True Copy replication software from Hitachi Data Systems, as the preferred solution to address their needs.

Sydney Shang, IT Manager for Hervey Bay City Council said the reason they chose the Hitachi products from SureBridge was:

"We had outgrown our current infrastructure of direct attached storage (DAS) and reliance on back up tapes. The solution offered by SureBridge and Hitachi was a complete end to end solution of proprietary products that had flexibility to match the exponential growth of our data storage requirements and resolved our inadequate and unreliable backup window times".

Sydney Shang reported that the use of the SAN (Storage Area Network) has shrunk the backup window by approximately 70%. Currently, Council has 1.5 terabytes of storage with annual growth of 35%.

Part of the Council's implementation project determined that one Hitachi storage controller be installed at the Council computer room and the second installed at a depot some five kilometres away; their designated Disaster Recovery location. The installation of Hitachi's software product True Copy, allowed Council's data to be replicated in real-time between the Council computer room and the Disaster Recovery location.

SureBridge IT consultants and technical staff combined with Hitachi Data Systems personnel and the Council's IT team, ensured the two Thunder 9570V Storage controllers along with True Copy replication software were delivered, installed and fully functioning within four weeks of Council placing the order.

Council's IT department staff were impressed with the project management and implementation of the system by both SureBridge and Hitachi as this was achieved in budget and on time. There have been no significant issues in the last six months since installation. It really has been an 'install, set and forget' system.

The only issue Council has had to address is that the project was so successful, predicted storage use for the first 12 months was used within 3 months of installation!

Overall, installation of the SAN (Storage Area Network) solution has allowed the Council to decrease predictions of corporate system down-time should a disaster/major problem occur. This has been a significant risk management strategy for Hervey Bay City Council, undertaking the key role of supporting the community in the event of a disaster.

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Hervey Bay City Council, situated 430kms north of Brisbane and confronted with a skyrocketing population since 1991, has a strong focus on planning for growth, intensive town planning and the upgrading of infrastructure.

