

the Vision

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Monthly Technology Newsletter

A Site to See

Visit www.securelinkbackup.com and see what our new *SecureLink* backup service can do for you. Micro Visions is proud to introduce this no worry, and no hassle solution to keeping all your business data backed up and secure.

Tell Me More

We would like to provide you, our readers, with the most valuable and timely information as possible. Help us bring you that information by emailing the topics that you would like to know more about. Article ideas that make it to print will be rewarded. Email your suggestions to:

tellmemore@microvisionsinc.com

We Can Help-Anytime

System crashes are never convenient, but when it happens it's good to know Micro Visions offers 24/7 emergency service. To reach a Systems Engineer after hours call 616-776-0400 leave a message, then call our pager at 616-230-1620.

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Backing Up Your Corporate Data.

One of the most valuable assets of any business is its compiled data. Processes, procedures, personnel files, price-lists, client-lists, payroll, accounting, the list goes on. While most businesses have invested in some form of a backup solution, many of those solutions will not accommodate the full restoration of data to the most current point in time.



Until recently the most practical solution has been an internal or external backup drive, using tapes or some other removable medium. While this has been the most prevalent solution, there are considerable drawbacks, some of which you may be well aware.

Tapes or other media must be installed on time, rotated on schedule, transported off-site, and properly secured. This must be a daily ritual; a priority; a point of focus in the life of the individual assigned the task. What happens when this individual is absent, or forgets, or doesn't realize he is performing part of the task incorrectly? Who monitors backups to ensure all data can be restored?

The data stored on the tape or other media reflects a snapshot of information taken at the specific time the backup was completed, if it was properly completed, rotated, transported, and secured. Thus, even under ideal conditions, corporate data can only be restored to the point of the last backup. Yesterday? Last week? Last month? Whatever is accomplished since the last backup does not exist in the backup archives until the next backup takes place, when the correct tape is correctly installed and the previous one rotated, transported, and secured.

There are other issues with conventional backup solutions. Tapes and other media wear out. It is imperative that older media be replaced before it fails. Data is almost never encrypted, allowing anyone who might breach the network unfettered access to all of your most sensitive information. Software should be regularly updated as manufacturers issue upgrades. Remote laptops and PCs or the data on them generally must be brought into the main office to be synchronized with the main server so they can be backed up.

Because it has never been tested, some believe that the current solution used to store their business data is adequate. Unfortunately, unless the efficacy of the current solution is tested a false sense of security settles in. They will not know critical data is not being backed up until it's too late; disaster strikes and their data cannot be restored.

Even if their backup solution has been verified, they still must live with the inherent problems associated with it. While both impractical and unreliable, the ubiquitous backup tape drive has been the best solution to date. Not anymore.

Remote backup solves most of the problems inherent in the conventional tape/media

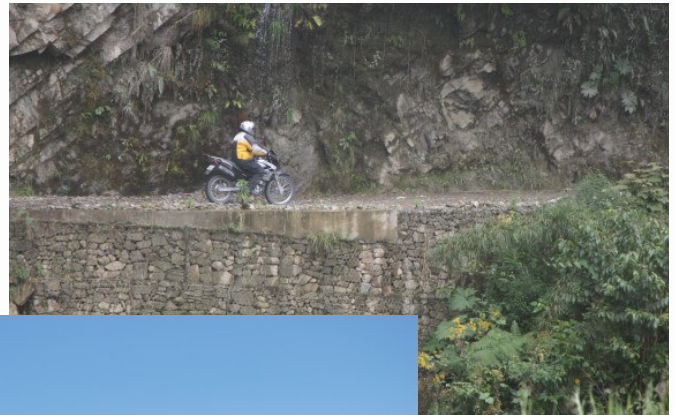
backup solutions your business may currently use. Because of this, remote backups are quickly unseating tape/ media backups as the most effective method of storing corporate data. Remote backup offers the following: The backup function is fully automated, relieving the worries and allowing employees to focus on more productive endeavors.

- Perishable media is eliminated. No need to worry about lifespan and the cost of replacing tapes.
- The prospect of human error is eliminated from the routine backup process. No missed backups. No missed or misplaced tapes, scheduling snafus, or rotation errors.
- All stored data is protected with encryption. If somebody broke in, they would be unable to read your data.
- Minimal up-front fees with fixed monthly costs.
- Remote laptops and PCs may be backed up individually, wherever they are, and do not have to be brought in to be synchronized to the corporate server.

For more information regarding the benefits of remote backups and whether it's the best solution for your company, call Micro Visions today at 616-776-0400. Also, and most importantly, if you are unsure about your current corporate backup solution and suspect you may be living with a false sense of security, call us to schedule an audit. We can verify your backups, analyze your current solution, and quickly determine whether your company's data is safe.

Postcards From the Edge

Many of you followed our Senior Systems Engineer, Gary Glass's recent motorcycle trip through the Andes mountains in Peru and Bolivia via his trip blog and photo gallery (crm.microvisionsinc.com/blog). Gary has safely arrived back in Grand Rapids and has these and many more memories to share:



Tech Quote of the Month

"Excellence is not a single act, but a habit. You are what you repeatedly do."
-Shaquille O'Neal