



## Atempo Time Navigator™ Partners with SGI to Archive Digitized Hollywood Movies at EFILM



### Problem

EFILM has thousands of terabytes of data spread across disk and tape in its SGI-powered supercomputing environment. It needed a sophisticated data protection solution to backup high-value data, as well as the ability to easily locate and move large amounts of data off various storage tiers.

### Goal

A sophisticated approach to quickly identify individual pieces of data and easily load and unload that data to any specified storage media.

### Results

- In EFILM's high-powered SGI supercomputing environment, Atempo Time Navigator delivers rapid and efficient backups and restorations.
- Using Atempo Time Navigator, EFILM can identify and restore individual files in less than 10-15 minutes.

*"Atempo has not only provided us with a cost-effective lifecycle management solution for our data, but has also demonstrated a solid commitment to customizing Time Navigator for the film industry by developing special features such as the ability to write data to tape in an industry standard TAR per frame format."*

Bob Eicholz

Vice President of Corporate Development  
EFILM

### Organization

EFILM is the market leader in digitizing blockbuster Hollywood films, with most of the major studios relying on them to convert and edit their films in digital format. EFILM's credits include over 100 full Digital Intermediates, including such blockbusters as Superman, The Producers, Collateral, Spanglish and Sin City.

### The Challenge

With more than 250 terabytes of online disk storage, EFILM has a large amount of data from different projects to manage at any given time. "Getting those huge chunks of data on and off disk and ensuring they are backed up presents a huge challenge," said Brian Corpus, data management supervisor at EFILM. "We are constantly on deadline with the studios, and we operate around the clock." The company needed a sophisticated data protection solution that could quickly backup and restore large data files in EFILM's high-powered SGI environment.

### Characteristics of EFILM's Environment

- Over 250 TB of disk storage
- SAN based clustered file system
- Sun StorageTek LTO 3 tape library
- 30 TB of SGI Total Performance 9400 storage
- 4 SGI Origin 300 servers

### The Solution

EFILM evaluated various solutions over a three-year period. "We tried several different solutions during this period but none worked out," said Corpus. "Most companies only access about 80% of their data on a regular basis, but we access all of our data all the time." Having implemented SGI supercomputing solutions to handle their high-speed data requirements, EFILM required a sophisticated data protection solution that could match the power and speed of the SGI environment. EFILM turned to Atempo to meet these specific storage management needs, and deployed Time

Navigator with its ability to easily identify data, then rapidly store and restore that data to any specified storage media.

"Despite our 250 terabytes of online disk storage, we work on numerous films at the same time and each film can occupy 8 to 30 terabytes," said Bob Eicholz, vice president of corporate development at EFILM. "There is no way all those files can be online simultaneously. Time Navigator allows us the freedom to constantly move inactive data onto tape and active data onto disk."

### Results

The combination of Atempo Time Navigator and SGI's supercomputing solutions gives EFILM a powerful joint deployment that provides the speed necessary to process the large quantities of data, as well as manage them. Specifically, Time Navigator has helped EFILM reduce the time it takes to restore or backup objects to 10 to 15 minutes. "With Time Navigator we move all inactive data onto tapes using our robot. This provides us with near-line storage and a low cost way of optimizing our storage resources," said Eicholz.

Moreover, Atempo has tailored Time Navigator to meet the unique requirements of the film industry by introducing special features such as the ability to write data to tape in an industry standard TAR per frame format.

As another important benefit of Time Navigator, EFILM is well-prepared for any potential disaster. "Studios expect us to protect their data with no excuses," said Eicholz. "Given our tight timelines, a quick, efficient restoration workflow is mandatory. Time Navigator gives us that extra added level of protection that we would recover quickly in the event of data corruption or loss due to a business interruption."

