



European Union Satellite Centre Selects Atempo Time Navigator™ for Data Protection



Problem

The EUSC collects and uses a huge volume of mission-critical geographical data. Therefore, they needed a data protection solution capable of protecting and restoring many terabytes of global satellite data, aerial images and valuable collateral.

Goal

- Ability to easily restore a tremendous number of images stored over a long period of time.
- Deploy a highly scalable and heterogeneous data protection solution.
- Successfully rely on the software vendor's regional support.

Results

- Time Navigator™ quickly restores images from any previous point in time.
- With Time Navigator's scalability, future data growth is no longer a problem.
- Atempo's regional support in Spain provides EUSC with timely and comprehensive support.

"In 1993, a Spot satellite image was representing 50 megabytes; today it is approximately 700 megs to one gigabyte or more in size. Because we collect and analyze a tremendous number of images, it is essential that we have a high-performance data protection software solution that can also flawlessly operate in a heterogeneous and scalable environment."

Juan Giner
Head of Technical Division
EUSC

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Organization

Located in Torrejón, near Madrid, Spain, the European Union Satellite Centre (EUSC) is an agency of the Council of the European Union. The EUSC is responsible for providing geographical information useful to the European Union in preventing conflicts, in contributing to peace-keeping, and in delivering aid in cases of natural or human-caused disasters. To this end, it is dedicated to the production of geographical information derived primarily from an analysis of images of Earth taken from space.

The Challenge

From 1993 to 2001, EUSC has seen its storage requirements grow by 300 percent due to the increase of image sizes and the growth of operational needs. Storage is a huge issue for the EUSC because their work involves determining changes in images over significant periods of time, such as a period of several years. As a result, protecting its operational data set is one of the highest priorities in the EUSC's datacenter.

The Solution

Since its creation, the EUSC had used Solstice Backup, the Sun-branded version of Legato NetWorker, to provide backup and restore capabilities. However, by the end of 2001 the EUSC was increasingly experiencing problems in the form of maintenance for the drivers and for their tape library. These problems were compounded by the lack of strong, regional support in Spain from EUSC's vendors at that time, which made technical problems even more difficult to resolve. In order to rectify the situation, EUSC began a search for a more appropriate solution.

Key criteria for the new solution included first-class integration with Exabyte's tape library, provisioning of full and advanced backups, restore and archive functions, ease-of-use and strong vendor support in Spain to prevent any future problems. Several potential solutions met these criteria, but

there were two additional factors that finally swung the decision in favor of the Atempo Time Navigator data protection solution.

First, there was a requirement to be able to navigate backwards through generations of backups—a key feature of Time Navigator, for which the product was named. Secondly, one of the employees at EUSC shared positive feedback from personal contacts working in a similar organization, who reported a very satisfactory experience with Time Navigator. EUSC collects an average of four terabytes of backup data every quarter, and uses a significant volume of geographical, satellite and aerial image data on a daily basis.

Characteristics of EUSC's Environment:

- Sun NFS Server
- High-end Sun workstations
- PCs running MS Windows 2000 and XP
- StorageTek Library L180 with LT02 tapes
- 2 NetApp Filers

Results

With Atempo's technology in place, EUSC is able to navigate backwards through generations of backups. Images can be restored easily at any time allowing analysis of mission-critical data. "We can choose whatever equipment we want to expand or update our infrastructure," confirms Juan Giner, head of the technical division at EUSC. "Time Navigator does not constrain our future choices; in fact, if anything, it has the opposite result and we're confident we can attach anything we like to the network and its data will still be protected."

If remote imaging technology continues to improve at the same rate it has over the last decade and if the EUSC's storage requirements continue to grow, then Time Navigator's "protect everything" capability is likely to prove very important.