



Scalar Series

Scalar Tape Library Dramatically Improves Restore Reliability and Lowers Backup Management Time by More Than 90%

To keep up with increasing data growth, Hunter Industries was looking to solve its data protection issues with updated technology. By installing a Quantum Scalar® tape library with embedded iLayer® software and HP LTO-5 tape drives, the company gained a dependable restore capability and reduced administrative time to less than 30 minutes a week.

LEGACY BACKUP SYSTEM COULD NOT KEEP UP WITH DATA GROWTH

Most people might presume that a company selling sprinklers would have few concerns about protecting data. Hunter Industries, however, is not just a sprinkler company.

Hunter specializes in sophisticated irrigation and water management systems that are used by subdivision developers, golf courses and other discriminating customers, including builders in desert-based Dubai. The company's engineering plans, plus all of its multimedia marketing materials, are proprietary assets that have helped Hunter become a market leader.

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Jeff Winckler
Network Administrator

The company also has experienced rapid growth since its founding in 1981, including global expansion. Today, Hunter has over 1,000 employees, manufacturing facilities in the United States and Mexico, and sales operations in California, Canada, Australia, Europe, the Middle East and China.

All of Hunter's success put pressure on the IT team at the company's San Diego headquarters to do a better job of protecting data, according to Jeff Winckler, Network Administrator in charge of backups. With a data growth rate of 30 to 40 percent over a year's time, the IT team struggled to keep up. To compound matters, the outdated tape library system in place left a record of incomplete backups, failed restores and lost data.

"It was a 30-tape library and it took 37 tapes to back up about 5TB of data, so we had to swap out tapes in mid-backup," he explains. "In a good week, I would spend about 10 hours a week handling tapes—and if things went wrong, it took much more of my time."

Restores were also a problem, with a hit-and-miss record of being able to recover data. Because of issues with data management software Hunter used at the time, any tape failure would make backup sets unusable.

"It was clear that the level of protection we had was just not worth it," Winckler says. "When we reviewed the issues we saw the problems immediately."

QUANTUM BRAND REPRESENTS QUALITY

In looking for a new data protection solution, the IT team members quickly focused on buying a Quantum Scalar® tape library, especially when they learned it had the scalability and reliability to match Hunter's

Hunter®
THE IRRIGATION INNOVATORS

"We all came to the conclusion that we preferred the Quantum line of products over others. We knew the brand represents quality."

Jeff Winckler
Network Administrator

SOLUTION OVERVIEW

- Quantum Scalar i500 14U tape library with HP LTO-5 drives
- CommVault Simpana 8 backup software
- HP G5 380 SAN server

KEY BENEFITS

- Reduces backup management time from 10-15 hours per week to less than half an hour
- Cuts tape media purchase costs by \$2,100 per month
- Provides reliable data restores

CASE STUDY

data growth and needs. The capacity of the Scalar i500 tape library and the management features found in the iLayer software make it easy to expand and restore data. Additionally, the tape drives can be upgraded as new technology becomes available.

Hunter purchased a Scalar i500 tape library with two LTO-4 tape drives and 40 slots. Because the Scalar tape libraries scale easily, the company upgraded to HP LTO-5 drives two years later. The company also switched its backup software to CommVault's Simpana 8. A new HP server dedicated to backups completed the IT overhaul.

SCALAR LIBRARY SAVES TIME, MONEY AND HASSLE

With the Scalar tape library installed, Winckler has seen big changes in his work week. He now spends less than half an hour per week handling tapes compared to 10 to 15 hours before, lowering his management time by more than 90%. In fact, he is at his desk much more often and able to focus on other priorities, rarely finding a need to venture into the data center because the backups have become so reliable.

Additionally, although LTO-5 tapes are more expensive than the media used in the past, they hold far more data and save Hunter about \$2,100 per month on tape purchases. Winckler says he may use only ten tapes in a week—not the 60 or so from the past—even though the company has grown so much that about 17TB of data is backed up during the week and a full backup comes in at about 10TB.

Restores are no longer problematic. Before installing the Scalar library, Winckler remembers cases when engineering drawings needed to be accessed and the most recent usable backup version was months old. That meant staff had to redo a significant amount of work. Those kinds of problems are now a thing of the past.

"With the reliability of the Scalar library, we have not had one tape that we couldn't restore from," Winckler says. "Once we have the right tape, we just pop it in and it restores every time."

Winckler keeps an eye on the backups during the week, but he no longer worries about whether Hunter's data is protected.

"It's almost like a ghost—the Scalar library just does its thing and I don't have to think about it," he says. "It's seamless; it runs the tapes and the drives are cleaned automatically. I just leave it alone and let it do its job."

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ABOUT HUNTER INDUSTRIES

Hunter Industries, a privately held corporation headquartered in San Marcos, California, is one of the world's leading manufacturers of irrigation equipment for the landscape and golf course industries. Hunter has four manufacturing sites in the United States and Mexico, with sales offices in the US, Canada, Australia, Europe, the Middle East and China. The company produces more than 100 water-efficient products for residential and commercial use and has more than 250 product patents and 42 trademarks.

To contact your local sales office, please visit www.quantum.com

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