Alsters - A Case Study

Alsters employ over 120 staff and are one of the largest independent legal firms in the Midlands. After a system crash they were unable to restore data from their backups and turned to the Online Backup automated online backup and restore solution as the answer to their problems.

Online Backup Service	– Online Data Backup and Restore
Requirement	– 4 NT servers
Connection	– 128 k ISDN
Cost saving	– 50% hardware and productivity
Productivity saving	– 70%

As a rule of thumb the minimum requirement for most business backup infrastructure should include:

- **Routine automated full system/ incremental daily backup**
- **Duplicated data backup**
- **At least one duplicated backup stored offsite**
- **Ability to confirm what data has been backed up**
- **Ability to undertake easy restore of data**
- **Experienced professional managing data backup and restore**
- **Encryption and safe storage of data**
- **Access to long term archiving**
- **Speedy backup and restore**

Most people think of backup as the key process in data protection, however data backups are virtually worthless if you are unable to restore it. Many people fail to check what files have been backed up and when they eventually come to restore wonder where their data has gone. Taking tapes offsite each night is a risky strategy as tapes can be lost, stolen and subject to corruption. The magnetic interference in a mobile phone can often corrupt data on backup tapes if they come into contact with each other.

Alsters were using sophisticated onsite tape streamers and were rotating tapes on a pre-defined cycle with backup tapes being taken offsite every night. They felt that they had a secure backup policy in place; that was until they had a system crash and tried to restore data from their backup tapes.

Although backing up their data daily, the tapes Alsters were backing up to proved unreliable. With no real way of knowing that the backup tapes were corrupted they were unable to restore a large quantity of data when they tried to repair their systems. Fortunately this time around the lost data was not commercially critical, however it could have been and demonstrated to them that they needed a more robust and reliable form of data backup and restore. Alsters turned to the automated online data backup and restore service.

Since using Online Backup and Restore, Alsters no longer have to worry about their data and there existing tape systems are proving redundant with the Online Backup service running on 4 servers. Each night the service automatically backups up each server with all data being encrypted and transmitted to the mirrored Online Backup data centre.

System administration of backups has been cut by about 70 % and Alsters have been able to strip back the cost of their backup hardware infrastructure and ongoing maintenance. As Online Backup is an offsite-managed service their IT resources are freed up to focus on the value added areas of their business.

"Remote Online Backup - Protecting the value of your business through secure data backup and restore"