SHOWCASE

Project name: Backup as a Service for the company Agrolabo S.p.a.

Description: Agrolabo Spa is a large Italian company in Piemonte region specialized in veterinary, located in the province of Turin. It is organized into three divisions, the company produces and distributes Nutrition Products for Breeding Animals, Diagnostic Products for All Animal Species, and Specialized Raw Materials for the Feeding Industry of Breeding Animals. To date, the company has 4 production facilities, including 3 for zootechnical products and 1 for biotechnology products. There are 2 storage and logistics centers, including 1 for zootechnical products and 1 for diagnostic products.

The original and local IT infrastructure of the company had a very simple architecture consisting of three server machines, where all its applications are executed. In order to run backups, the company had a small Network Address Storge (NAS) that stores data from backup jobs.

All the servers and clients were provided with an antivirus software, but unfortunately the company contracted a virus of the Ramsoware family, i.e., cryptolocker. This virus encrypted all the files on the companies servers and clients and through an automated software asked for a reward to be payed in Bitcoins in order to decrypt the files.

After the attack the company tried to retrieve his data from the backup NAS, unfortunately even the backup data stored on the device had been infected because the NAS server was also connected to the network of the company.

In order to restore the data and not to pay the reward to the hackers the company had to ask for help to a specialized encryption service, which costs a lot of money. Additionally, the removal of the virus and the decryption took many days, where the IT system was not usable.

To avoid similar situations in the future, the IT manager of the company decided to adopt a Cloud based backup solution. The proposed solution was to continue copying the data of the company within the hosted NAS, a repository for local backups, but at the same time to replicate each bit within a more secure Data Center using a Cloud Computing Solution, i.e., Backup as a Service (BaaS).

The Backup as a Service solution uses the Seagate software suite Evault. Being fully disk-based, the service is considerably faster than traditional tape-based solutions and completely eliminates the errors associated with the manual handling of the tapes themselves. The EVault platform technology also automates the entire data protection process and offers patented data deduplication and data transfer technology, as well as a Web site for managing backup jobs and complete security to ensure that no one else accesses data.

Following benefits have been obtained by adopting this solution:

- Flexible access;
- Data encryption;
- Dedicated network;
- Full reporting.

The solution adopted by AGROLAB Spa allows a high degree of protection on many different technological platforms. A similar virus attack would not cause the loss of data anymore.