Agentrics Uses SIOS to Protect Retail Management Solutions

Global provider of retail and supply chain solutions for the world's leading retailers and manufacturers protects its data with SIOS Protection Suite for Linux

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Agentrics is a global provider of retail and supply chain solutions. Agentrics solutions comprise spend management, product sourcing, supply chain planning and replenishment, retail intelligence, online collaboration and communication, as well as product lifecycle management.

Agentrics' business solutions enable leading retailers, brand manufacturers and suppliers to launch more products faster, by fostering a collaborative supply chain with accurate, timely, and automated data sharing. Customers gain significant efficiencies, lower costs, and faster time to market, while benchmarking performance against the world's best.

As a provider of supply chain solutions for its roster of high-profile retail customers, the company faces tremendous pressure to maintain continuous application availability. If a failure prevented their customers from accessing its solutions, their customers' schedules and planning would be affected, potentially resulting in a loss of time and money due to failure driven delays.

Agentrics had a critical need for a disaster recovery and business continuity solution to maintain the security of its important data.

The Challenge

Before implementing the SIOS solution, Agentrics relied on the high availability (HA) clustering solution that accompanied its SUN servers for data protection. When the company planned to move to a Linux platform, IT staff knew they needed an HA clustering solution that was both easy to deploy and comparable in protection to its previous SUN clustering solution. After conducting a thorough evaluation of HA options, Agentrics chose SIOS Protection Suite for Linux.

"We had a very clear idea of what the new solution should embody," said Ajit Datey, Lead Unix Administrator, Agentrics. "It had to be cost-effective, simple to integrate, and be similar to our previous solution. SIOS Protection Suite for Linux met all of our needs."

Because the company's core business is dedicated to providing online exchange platforms that help increase their customers' competitive offerings, Agentrics needed a failover solution that would monitor its databases and protect it from failures

"Some of the world's leading retailers depend on our applications to enhance their product cycle, so finding a solution that minimizes downtime is a key requirement," said Datey.

The Solution

SIOS Protection Suite for Linux provides continuous data availability by creating a fault resilient environment. It also incorporates application awareness capabilities that create, change, and manage availability, while protecting the company's entire system stack through a single intuitive GUI. Furthermore, its application aware feature contains the ability to understand the interdependencies that occur between all system components compared to competitors whose same feature is limited to only monitoring the hardware, operating system and database.

Agentrics runs on HP servers connected to an EMC array to manage its three, two-node clustering environments. SIOS Protection Suite for Linux works with EMC PowerPath and does not require a proprietary file system. The solution's compatibility with shared storage configurations, such as EMC PowerPath, as well as other types of storage configurations, made SPS for Linux the clear choice for Agentrics.

The SIOS solution's advanced features make it the ideal choice for customers that are in the process of migrating their critical business applications and databases from proprietary UNIX to Linux systems.

The solution's unique makeup provides companies, such as Agentrics, the flexibility and TCO (Total Cost of Ownership) savings that are associated with open source platforms. For Agentrics, SIOS Protection Suite for Linux was a key enabler, reducing the TCO for the migrated systems by 40 percent.

"We wanted to move our Oracle databases onto Linux to benefit from the cost savings and the faster CPU (Central Processing Unit) speeds that are available on x86 and x64 platforms," said Datey. "Without SIOS Protection Suite for Linux we would not have been able to successfully transition to our new platform."

In addition, SIOS Protection Suite for Linux is recognized as the industry's most comprehensive and scalable solution for eliminating application downtime from either planned or unplanned outages. It operates within the most stringent SLA uptime requirements, ranging from local data replication and application failover to complete recovery from a remote site.

"SIOS Protection Suite for Linux passed every test scenario we conducted during our search process," said Datey. "The solution was extremely intuitive which made the transition process much easier. In addition, we were able to fully rely on SIOS throughout our deployment process. If we encountered any issues, SIOS was quick to provide a solution and tell us how to proceed. Because of their support and the ease of the solution, it only took three months until we reached full deployment."

Benefits

Agentrics has relied on SIOS Protection Suite for Linux for the past four years and during this time the company has not experienced any critical issues thanks to the solution's unique clustering techniques. For the handful of issues that have surfaced since the solution was deployed in Agentrics' environment, SPS for Linux was able to immediately detect them and take the appropriate pre-defined action. As a result, Agentrics has been able to maintain uptime in excess of its SLA agreements.

"With the issues that have occurred, SPS for Linux did exactly what it promised to do. The solution has provided us with intangible benefits such as cost savings, performance improvement of our databases and consistent high availability," said Datey.

About SIOS

SIOS delivers innovative software solutions that provide application availability and disaster protection for Windows and Linux environments.

Clusters Your Way.™

An essential ingredient in any cluster solution, SIOS SAN and #SANLess clustering software provides the flexibility to build clusters your way to protect your choice of Windows or Linux environment – and any configuration (or combination) of physical, virtual and cloud (public, private, and hybrid) storage – without sacrificing performance or availability. SIOS provides unique #SANLess clustering software that eliminates both the cost and the single-point-of-failure risk of traditional SAN-based cluster solutions.

Founded in 1999, SIOS Technology Corp., is headquartered in San Mateo, California, and has offices throughout the United States, United Kingdom, and Japan.

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