

Perform a Migration of 158 Terabytes of Data *Without* Physical Access to the Storage Area Network?

Not a Problem...

Data Agility Group recently performed a rather challenging migration. The client company was a global provider of safety and security products. An S&P 500 company, the client manufactures more than 25 different brands sold in over 120 countries worldwide, generating around \$2 billion in annual revenues.

This project involved migrating virtual machines and data from a VMWare environment to a managed-cloud environment. It also involved migrating data from physical Windows, Linux, HP/UX and AIX servers. In addition, many of the physical servers had to be forklifted from a datacenter in Newark, Delaware to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania - a journey of about 300 miles. This was no small project; a total of 259 physical and virtual servers were involved - many of them so old that they were no longer supported. And it was *essential* that the operating system be protected to allow for recovery in the event of a disaster during transport.

A challenging project, to be sure.

But there was one more little complicating twist: Access would not be permitted to the SAN, since it was located in a third-party's datacenter.

For Every Problem There's a Solution

As with every migration, much was riding on the successful outcome of this project. So the unique challenges presented were tackled one-by-one.

The DAG team determined that the best, and really the *only*, way to handle the lack of access would be to perform a host-level data capture. This required a provisional redesign of the migration architecture - an in-the-field overhaul of the entire migration game plan.

But other problems arose.

The DAG team discovered host cluster issues that could place the target environment at risk (a less experienced, less thorough team likely would have missed this one). There were complications with the Linux capture at the source datacenter. And pre-migration due diligence by the DAG team also revealed instability with the Windows cluster servers. Migration of the clusters 'as-is' would have posed an additional source of risk to the target environment.

Each problem found added another layer of complexity to a project that quickly morphed from routine to memorable. But each problem was handled in stride as the DAG team drew upon its considerable wealth of experience in innovating solutions and workarounds.

Is There Really Any Such Thing as a Routine Migration?

According to an old saying, every problem is nothing more than a solution waiting to happen. As DAG's experienced migration experts very well know, that's a mindset that will serve admirably in managing migrations to successful completions.

Because even though this project may have been complicated far beyond the routine, the reality is that a *truly* routine migration is a rare animal. For this project, the experience of the DAG team was key - not only in finding solutions to unexpected problems, but also in discovering problems that could have rendered the migration a disastrous failure.

Experience made all the difference. When dealing with complex technologies, isn't that the way it *a/ways* works out?