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UTILITIES: NOBLE ENERGY

CASE STUDY

Noble Energy is an international oil and natural gas producer with both onshore and offshore interests in the United States, West Africa, Israel, the North Sea, the Mediterranean, Ecuador, and China.

Noble Energy has three main locations requiring backup in Denver CO, Houston TX, and Ardmore OK. These sites house approximately 742 TB of data in the form of about 412 million files in a mixture of data types. According to Robert Standridge, Backup Administrator, the sites contain, "A mixture of unstructured data" that includes business files, Oracle databases, Lotus Notes databases, and some graphics files.

The Challenge:

Noble Energy was trying to backup the servers at all three main sites using Backup Exec but that solution was leaving "lots of unprotected data", according to Standridge.

Noble also required a disaster-recovery option, considering the diverse and often hazardous environmental conditions faced by their industry.

Noble underwent a search for a new backup, archive, and disaster-recovery solution that included consideration of all options and selected the STORServer Enterprise Backup Appliance as the best of those options.

The Solution:

Noble purchased their first STORServer Enterprise Backup Appliance for the Houston site. Since then, they have upgraded that system to account for company growth and purchased STORServer appliances for the Denver and Ardmore sites as well. One site serves as the disaster-recovery repository for the others, solving all of the issues raised in their original search for a new solution.

Standridge was hired due to his previous backup experience with Tivoli Storage Manager; however, an experienced TSM administrator isn't required to manage a STORServer Enterprise Backup Appliance.

Standridge said the installation was “amazingly smooth” and that the solution “worked just as advertised”. Standridge notes that the time to install was “...probably a day and a half.”

Results:

Standridge is happy with the fact that the backups that were failing with the old solution are now reliable and the “technical support is really straightforward. They are very good...very talented.”

Noble Energy's backup process is now reliable and simple to operate and administer. The problems with missed backups have been eliminated and Standridge says that the best thing about having STORServer Appliances as their backup solution is, “The support that I get. And the STORServer helps me sleep well at night.”

**ABOUT STORSERVER**

STORServer, Inc., headquartered in Colorado Springs, CO is a leading provider of data backup solutions for the mid-market. We offer a complete suite of appliances, software, and services that solve today's backup, archive and disaster recovery challenges. For more information on STORServer, please visit the company's website at www.storserver.com.

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