



Silicon Laboratories Deploys NearStore™ for Disaster Recovery and Data Archiving



Cost-effective,
fast-access storage
for online backup
and archiving.

The Customer

Silicon Laboratories Inc. designs and develops mixed-signal integrated circuits (ICs) for the communications industry. Like other semiconductor companies, proprietary data represents the intellectual property of the company and thus controls its livelihood. As the IT manager at Silicon Labs, Ken Strickland is responsible for the accessibility and integrity of all critical corporate data.

The Challenge

To meet his responsibilities effectively, Strickland sought a nearline storage solution that would:

- Speed the disaster recovery process if a storage device was inaccessible.
- Provide rapid access to archived data.
- Interoperate in both Microsoft® Windows® and UNIX® environments.

The Solution

A combination of Network Appliance™ NearStore and SnapMirror® software, with third party backup software, was the solution. "We use SnapMirror to mirror all corporate data onto NearStore," comments Strickland. "This data is being generated at both headquarters and a remote facility connected over a T1 line." Such an approach meets the requirement for rapid recovery from catastrophic failure of a storage resource because data can be retrieved from NearStore as a fail over response then restored to the storage resource after repair or replacement.

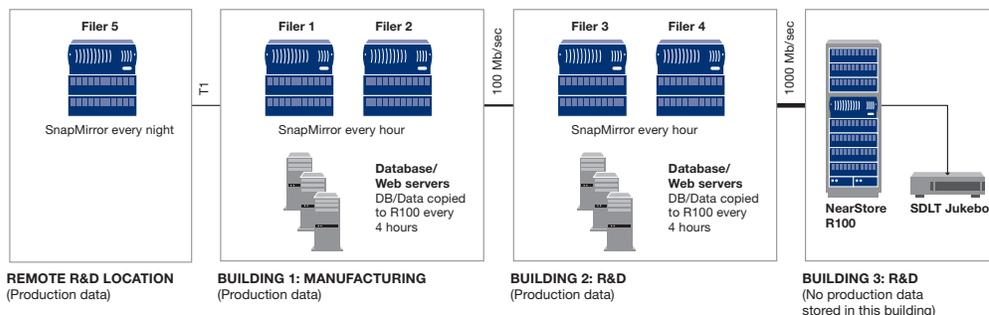
Keeping archived data such as completed circuit designs and associated simulation data online was another requirement since design engineering uses this data when creating new devices. In the past such data had to be retrieved from tape each time engineering needed access to it. With NearStore it is online and available constantly at a lower cost per megabyte than conventional storage so files that might be needed are instantly accessible.

Interoperability was also important. Silicon Labs relies on a mix of Microsoft Windows and UNIX servers (see figure below), Network Appliance filers and database server direct-attached disks for storage resources. Since NearStore seamlessly supports these different operating environments, it met this requirement with ease.

The Business Benefits

According to Strickland, deploying the NearStore solution provided two additional benefits. First, it simplifies the backup process as tape images can be taken from data on NearStore since the tape drive connects directly to it. Second, it minimizes the backup window and thus increases the productivity of the primary storage.

With NearStore deployed, Strickland says he's more confident about recovering rapidly from a disaster. "Our need for tape backup hasn't disappeared," he says, "but now we have an additional fail-safe mechanism in place."



CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

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