

DXi-Series

DXi Delivers High-Performance, Scalable Data Backup and Disaster Recovery to Growing Financial IT Services Organization

Celero, a Canadian-based information technology services provider, wanted to improve its existing data backup and disaster recovery process, helping to better position the organization for sustainable growth and strengthen its competitive advantage.

Ultimately, Celero's goal was to simplify and accelerate backup, restore and disaster recovery, while at the same time reduce costs. Celero chose Quantum's disk backup and deduplication platform, DXi®, to help it realize significant cost savings and efficiently support future business growth.

THE NEED FOR CONSOLIDATION AND SCALABILITY

Ten years ago, Celero was created by five co-operative organizations with a clear mandate: take advantage of the economies of scale and deliver reliable, innovative and cost-effective IT solutions to its owner organizations. Today, that mandate has changed significantly along with the needs of the company's expanding base of financial services organizations.

"When it was originally formed, the five parent organizations each had their own unique way of protecting data, and used every type of backup strategy you can name," says Brant Kubas, Storage Architect at Celero. "This practice was extremely inefficient and was a clear obstacle to the company's growth plans."

"Our first mission was to consolidate the various technology systems our credit unions used to create one universal platform," says Kubas. "The next critical step was to decide how we were going to back up the new system."

Given the twin needs for consolidation and scalability, Celero's challenge was to identify a reliable, efficient, and intuitive data protection solution that would support four data centers spread strategically across the prairie provinces, including Alberta, Manitoba, and

Saskatchewan. While this added cost and complexity to the requirements, it was a key driver of the final solution decision.

"Our first step was to assess the tape systems that were in place and investigate how deduplication and replication between data centers could support our existing processes," adds Kubas. "The cost to transfer tapes was approximately \$800 per day, and it was clearly an area where cost savings could be quickly realized. We needed a simple, cost-effective way to back up and protect client data and a scalable solution that would grow with us."

Celero also recognized that improving its data protection processes would free additional resources to focus on supporting its clients' growing needs in other areas. In the end, the team decided it needed a combination of tape virtualization, data deduplication and replication. The next challenge was to find the right platform.

QUANTUM COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION

Celero was already considering Data Domain and worked with Winnipeg-based reseller Alpha Technologies, Inc. to bring Quantum into the mix. Celero was impressed with the professionalism and expertise of Quantum's employees, and following a side-by-side product evaluation, decided on two 36TB DXi appliances.

"Deduplication was cutting-edge technology when we first started deploying it, and we wanted a technology partner that was not only 100 percent committed, but would take the time to understand our needs and



"We wanted a technology partner that was not only 100 percent committed, but would take the time to understand our needs and keep working to meet them. We went with the vendor [Quantum] that demonstrated this long-term level of dedication."

Brant Kubas
IT Architect

SOLUTION OVERVIEW

- Two 200TB Quantum DXi8500 appliances
- Two 40TB Quantum DXi6702 appliances
- Quantum Vision Reporting Software

KEY BENEFITS

- Saves \$200,000 a year in tape handling
- Speeds data backup by a factor of 7:1
- Ensures near instantaneous data replication
- Scales to support growing data requirements
- Reduces storage requirements through deduplication

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Celero soon rolled out two more DXi solutions, with the original two dedicated to virtual tape library (VTL) backup of retail banking applications using Tivoli Storage Manager, and the others used as network attached storage (NAS) targets for the company’s AIX, Oracle and SQL data stores. Each main data center hosted a pair of the VTL/NAS appliances, which were then replicated for disaster recovery.

Over the succeeding years, Celero worked with Quantum to upgrade its systems as new DXi generations were introduced. Today, the company has two 200TB DXi8500 solutions and two 40TB DXi6702 appliances in place to provide fast backup and high-performance deduplication for its continually growing data.

SAVINGS IN THE BANK

For Celero, Quantum’s DXi solutions have simplified and accelerated backup, restore, and disaster recovery, all while reducing IT costs. Celero is confident that its client data is protected, even as individual customers grow their data exponentially over time.

“With the DXi solutions in place today we have a solid platform for meeting our protection and disaster recovery requirements,” says Kubas. “Backups that used to take seven hours for a single client now take just an hour, even with two or more times the data load. And deduplication helps us meet our scalability needs while keeping costs manageable.”

Replication has dramatically improved since the first generation of DXi, which means that Celero’s disaster recovery program is that much stronger. Moving data between locations that used to take a day for tape shuffling and cost hundreds of thousands of dollars a year is now done transparently and almost instantly using DXi, resulting in annual savings of approximately \$200,000.

“File replication is literally amazing, with copies in place just seconds later,” says Kubas.

The consolidated approach also gives Celero centralized control and the ability to save on licensing costs. In addition, the company uses Quantum’s Vision® Reporting Software to see the complete picture of its backup environment from an operations and troubleshooting perspective.

“The user interface is simple to use and understand; I don’t think I’ve had to crack a manual from day one,” Kubas says.

Overall, it’s been Quantum’s commitment—not only to its customer partnership but also to continued product improvement—that has been critical.

“Quantum’s commitment to continually improving these systems has been a key factor in our long relationship,” Kubas notes. “We’ve seen constant improvement in replication and data ingestion; right now it’s excellent, and it just keeps getting better. That’s Quantum in a nutshell.”

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ABOUT CELERO

Celero is a leading provider of IT solutions to financial institutions across Canada. Consistently ranked among the world’s top financial technology companies on the annual FinTech 100 list, Celero fortified its reputation for excellence in 2010 with the completion of the largest banking conversion project in Canadian co-operative history. A full-service IT shop, Celero provides complete banking solutions, IT planning, systems integration, hosting, support, maintenance and professional services to meet the unique needs of financial institutions of all sizes, and delivers world-class reliability through its Canadian-based data centers, employees, and operations. Celero has 265 employees located across Canada.

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