

British Armed Forces uses 132 TB SAIT WORM Tape Solution for Centralized Geographic Data Storage Facility

In early November 2003, the Defence Geographic Centre (DGC) awarded BAE Systems Integrated System Technologies (Insyte) the contract to supply a Centralized Geographic Data Storage Facility (Project DALI). The Defence Geographic Centre provides Britain's Armed Forces throughout the world with both digital and hard copy mapping.

DGC's requirement was for a low cost, high density and high volume digital storage system. It had to store all objects securely ensuring confidentiality, integrity, availability and accountability at all times.

The preferred solution to the requirements was the result of Insyte designers working in close collaboration with NCE Computer Group Europe Ltd and their suppliers Qualstar, Sony and XenData to ensure the use of the latest Super Advanced Intelligent Tape (SAIT) Write Once Read Many (WORM) tape storage technology. Qualstar manufactured the SAIT tape library storage system hardware with Sony providing the required firmware and SAIT WORM tapes. XenData provided the data storage management software that is integrated into the BAE Systems storage solution.



Qualstar 132 TB SAIT Tape Library

DALI has the ability to store and back up hundreds of thousands of maps for business continuity. With the exception of the UK the DGC is responsible for mapping all the earth's surface above sea level.

DALI provides storage using an integrated disk and tape storage solution. The system automatically transfers data from tape as needed, and maintains recently used data in the fast disk store. The software supports integrity checking and version control. Storage consists of 1.4 TB of usable disk space and a Qualstar tape library that holds up to 264 tape cartridges, providing a native capacity of 132 TB.

The tape library uses the latest SAIT WORM tapes and drives to provide fast and secure archive storage. The native (uncompressed) capacity of each tape within the library is 500 GB.

Multiple network connections are made to the PDEN (DGC' specific network) to provide a high bandwidth for storage and retrieval.

The entire system is installed within two racks: one rack holds the servers, disk array, RAID controllers and network connectivity while the second rack contains only the tape library.

About XenData Archive Series Software

XenData Archive Series software manages RAID and a tape library on a server and presents these storage devices as a standard network volume accessible via NFS or CIFS.

The administrator defines policies that determine where the data is stored. The software supports both rewritable and unalterable WORM tape cartridges. In the case of WORM tape, the solution meets the compliance requirements of the most stringent regulations such as the SEC 17a-4 mandate.

This solution replaces backup, as the software automatically generates tape cartridge replicas for off-site retention and the complete system can be rapidly restored from tape.

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