



Atempo Time Navigator™ Archives Digitized Hollywood Movies at EFILM



Problem

EFILM needed a reliable data protection solution that could scale to protect thousands of terabytes of data spread across disk and tape.

Goal

A fast and easy way to identify individual pieces of data and easily load and unload that data to any specified storage media.

Results

Using Time Navigator, EFILM is able to:

- Identify and restore individual files in less than 10-15 minutes
- Meet film industry requirements with the ability to write data to tape in TAR per frame format
- Easily store and restore their data to any specified storage media

To find out more about the industries Atempo has helped and which solutions can best serve your business, contact Atempo today at info@atempo.com

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Organization

EFILM is the market leader in digitizing blockbuster Hollywood films, with most of the major studios relying on them to convert and edit their films in digital format. EFILM's credits include over 100 full digital intermediates, including such blockbusters as Superman, The Producers, Collateral, Spanglish and Sin City.

The Challenge

With more than 250 terabytes of online disk storage, EFILM has a large amount of data from different projects to manage at any given time. "Getting those huge chunks of data on and off disk and ensuring they are backed up presents a huge challenge. We are constantly on deadline with the studios, and we operate around the clock," said Brian Corpus, data management supervisor at EFILM.

Characteristics of EFILM's Environment

- 250+ terabytes of disk storage
- SAN based clustered file system
- Sun StorageTek LTO 3 tape library
- High performance SGI servers

The Solution

EFILM evaluated various solutions over a three year period. "We tried several different solutions during this period but none worked out," said Corpus. "Most companies only access about 80% of their data on a regular basis, but we access all of our data all the time."

EFILM chose Atempo Time Navigator because they needed a solution that could provide them with a fast and easy way to identify individual pieces of data and easily store and restore that data to any specified storage media. Bob Eicholz, vice president of corporate development at EFILM, said, "Despite our 250 terabytes of online disk storage, we work on numerous

films at the same time and each film can occupy 8-30 terabytes. There is no way all those files can be online simultaneously. Time Navigator allows us the freedom to constantly move inactive data onto tape and active data onto disk."

Results

The interface from Atempo Time Navigator has helped EFILM reduce the time it takes to restore or backup objects to 10-15 minutes. "With Time Navigator we move all inactive data onto tapes using our robot. This provides us with near-line storage and a low cost way of optimizing our storage resources," said Eicholz.

Atempo has tailored Time Navigator to meet the unique requirements of the film industry by introducing special features such as the ability to write data to tape in an industry standard TAR per frame format.

As an additional benefit, they now feel prepared in the event that something were to go wrong. Eicholz added, "Studios expect us to protect their data with no excuses. Given our tight timelines, a quick, efficient restoration workflow is mandatory. Time Navigator gives us that extra added level of protection that we would recover quickly in the event of data corruption or loss due to a business interruption."

"Atempo has not only provided us with a cost-effective lifecycle management solution for our data, but has also demonstrated a solid commitment to customizing Time Navigator for the film industry by developing special features such as the ability to write data to tape in an industry standard TAR per frame format."

Bob Eicholz
Vice President of Corporate Development
EFILM