



Budd Van Lines' successes with PHD's **esXpress** backup solution

Budd Van Lines, Inc. (BVL) is a executive relocation company servicing the high level transportation needs of Fortune 500 and U.S. government corporate officers. BVL has offices nationwide and an internal user base of over 200.

In June 2006, BVL began a roll-out of VMware's ESX servers. At that time, BVL's Exchange, SQL and File Servers were converted to Virtual Machines (VMs). While this conversion had many advantages, system backup suffered. Our agent based backup system performed worse in the new virtual environment. During the agent backups, some of our production VMs were brought to a crawl. BVL experimented with backing up entire VMs through scripting, but this was abandoned as it required the VM to be shutdown or suspended during the backup period. These complications pushed BVL to find a new backup solution for our environment.

In 2007 Budd Van Lines tested several backup solutions and **esXpress** was our first choice. **EsXpress's** innovative technology of using Virtual Machines to backup other Virtual Machines completely solved all the problems referenced above. Installation was simple and backups could be controlled through the VI console. **EsXpress** also permitted full system restores without the need to first reload a base operating system, configure, and then reload system data. **EsXpress** backs up the entire VM - not just the data.

Once we tested and deployed **esXpress**, all agent based backups were discontinued. **EsXpress'** Virtual Helpers are, in fact, VMs. This allows reservation pools to be created preventing the backup cycle from hogging too much resource. This insures full system functionality while backups are running. The speed and compression level are superior to the agents as well. BVL currently has close to sixty production VMs on four ESX hosts. Average backup speed per host is over 200 GB / hr.

Today, Budd Van Lines is evaluating the new **esXpress** 3.5 Beta system in a test environment. Of the many enhancements offered, a key new feature is File Level Recovery which is controlled through a central website. BVL will be able to instantly restore files without restoring the entire VM to a test environment. Another key enhancement is the new DeDuplication feature which reduces the space requirements of backups. We project this smaller backup footprint will allow us to store four to five times more backup data than at current.

Using PHD's **esXpress** in our environment has given BVL a reliable and, we believe optimal Disaster Recovery solution – and at a significant cost saving to other vendor solutions. Knowing that I can restore of our entire system to a precise moment in time gives me greater peace of mind as an IT administrator.

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