Gérald Piechocki, Project Manager at Jury Hospital, expressed interest in Tina (Time Navigator) to equip its virtualized infrastructure with a powerful backup solution. Previously, backups were performed via scripts launched at night in order to keep databases on tape. The critical data to be backed up includes Agfa Healthcare’s Hexagon software database for the management of medical activities plus a range of business software.

“Our infrastructure is 100% VMware virtualized with 50 virtual machines running in two replicated computer rooms” explains Gérald Piechocki. “No data whatsoever is stored on the workstations. Access to applications is through the VPN.”

Most restore requests are to find files accidentally deleted by a user. “We’ve never had to bring back a full server, but thanks to the simplicity of Tina’s interface, recovering a file or directory is very rapid” says Gérald Piechocki. “If a virus infected one of our servers, we can use an incremental backups of the databases performed hourly and the weekly full server backup. We have an RTO of around 4 to 6 hours, depending on the type of server impacted.”

The Jury Hospital

Jury Hospital near Metz in Eastern France is a specialized center for persons with psychological or addictive disorders. Since 2014, Jury Hospital has moved closer to the nearby Lorquin Hospital through shared management. The hospital cares for 12,000 patients each year.

The challenges

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The solution

Since the Tina was deployed, 60 backup processes have been automated and are launched hourly, daily or weekly.

“Depending on the criticality of the application, we must be able to roll back to a backup of one hour maximum on some applications” adds Gérald. “Today, we back up all of our data, without exception. All of the virtualized infrastructure, all of the VMware VMDKs are backed up over the weekend, and during the week, these backups are also duplicated on LTO tape.”

The space available on the VLS allows for a retention on disk of two weeks. The tape library contains 24 LTO cartridges, for two months of retention of the VMDKs. All data is stored in 2 separate computer rooms. Tina restores from either storage system in exactly the same way.

Faced with increasing data volumes to protect, Gérald Piechocki imagines the future of Jury’s backup platforms. Tina’s software deduplication capabilities, coupled with the decreasing price of storage make it possible to scale the architecture and further improve the service to users, by increasing retention and therefore the number of file versions that can be recovered.

“The transition to a fully virtualized architecture provided the opportunity to establish a reliable backup process. Beyond the increase in the volume of data to be protected, we were looking to increase the backup retention periods. A full-scale test showed us Tina’s usefulness in our environment.”

Gérald Piechocki, Project Manager, IT Systems Department
Jury Hospital