C.H.E.K Institute
Maximizing Storage Fitness

Snap Server 520 takes network storage to an even higher level of performance.

The C.H.E.K Institute (Corrective Holistic Exercise Kinesiology) of Vista, California, is a world leader in the development and distribution of innovative solutions for physiological rehabilitation and athletic performance improvement. Founded in 1995 by fitness pioneer Paul Chek, the company develops educational materials and functional training tools to help its clients—from amateur and professional athletes to regular people—attain their wellness, health and fitness goals. The company extends its reach through its nationwide network of C.H.E.K practitioners trained and certified by the C.H.E.K Institute.

Excalibur is a systems reseller and consulting firm with offices in Sunnyvale, California and Big Sky, Montana. Founded in 1984, Excalibur optimizes businesses through the establishment of reliable information technology systems and the introduction of cost-efficient methods for retaining customers and enhancing sales.

The Challenge

Keeping pace with success

Excalibur founder and principal Jerry Pape had helped the C.H.E.K Institute meet its need for a robust, reliable storage solution back in 2003, when its old server and storage met with a sudden catastrophic failure.

"Their server and other equipment went down for the count without warning," Jerry recalls, noting that he was able to recover the data, saving the company's

valuable intellectual property. In the process, he found that the outdated Windows 2000 Server and RAID 1 storage system had been costing the C.H.E.K Institute thousands per year in maintenance costs.

Jerry came to the rescue, installing a Snap Server 4200 and a new GigE network, taking the C.H.E.K Institute's storage infrastructure to a new level of performance, reliability and cost avoidance.

By 2006, however, the C.H.E.K Institute found itself in need of additional capacity to meet the growing needs of its business.

"The C.H.E.K Institute runs on intellectual property—text, illustrations and graphics, videos, and photos, in addition to its mail order management and other business applications. This

Executive Summary

Challenge

Need cost-effective, reliable storage for critical intellectual property data

Solution

Snap Server 520

Results

Dramatic increase in data access speed

Reduced total cost of ownership

Rock-solid reliability with no failures

makes for an extremely data-intensive environment that is growing continuously," Jerry says. "We considered adding more capacity to the 4200, but we decided it made sense simply to upgrade to a new storage server."

Solution

Snap Server 520

"The choice for an upgrade was easy," Jerry says. "The Snap Server had served the C.H.E.K Institute well, proving itself the best storage product in its price class, hands down. Plus, it's backed up by the best customer service in the business."

Jerry recommended the new Snap Server 520 RAID 5 array. Built on 64-bit AMD Opteron™ architecture with high-speed SATA II drives, the Snap Server 520 offered a level of performance even greater than the 4200. With scalability up to an impressive 26TB, the Snap Server 520 also offered plenty of room for cost-effective, incremental growth.

Most importantly, Jerry knew the Snap Server 520, like the 4200 before it, offered easy management and rock-solid reliability—two factors of critical importance to organizations like the C.H.E.K Institute, which don't have an in-house IT staff.

"Like all Snap Servers, the quality of the hardware on the 520 is top-notch. They don't skimp on the quality of components."

Based on its experience with the 4200, the client readily agreed to purchase a new 1TB Snap Server 520.

Results

Even greater performance

When the Snap Server 520 was deployed, the difference was dramatic.

"In addition to the greater capacity, the first impact was a massive performance increase," Jerry says. "The 520's high-performance chips and the high-speed SATA drives produced an acceleration in data access speed that was noticed by everyone in the company."

This performance increase is particularly valuable when it comes to producing the C.H.E.K Institute's very graphic-intensive publications, presentations and other materials.

"Those presentations can be more than 400 megabytes in size, posing a real challenge to any storage system." Jerry says. "With the new 520, they are able to access, save, print, and back up those large documents much faster, which has a huge impact on business productivity."

With the Snap Server's reliable RAID 5 configuration, the C.H.E.K Institute has the peace of mind knowing there are no single points of failure. And the Snap Server's GuardianOS operating system further enhances storage flexibility and security. Jerry notes that since most viruses target Windows-based systems, the Linux-based GuardianOS helps prevent virus propagation, an advantage he considers "massively significant."

Jerry says the 520 was up and running quickly, thanks to what he calls Snap Server's "legendary" ease of setup. "And the outstanding price/performance of the Snap Server 520 enabled us to meet our budget guidelines, which is critical."

"The Institute was thrilled with the performance and reliability of their first Snap Server 4200 and now the 520 just takes that to a higher level," Jerry says, noting that the Snap Server's ability to generate satisfied clients is one of its most important features.

"Our clients look to us for solutions that protect and enhance their revenue streams," he says. "The Snap Server helps me do that, year in and year out. I've seen Snap Servers go to hell and back and I've never lost a byte of data."

Solution Features

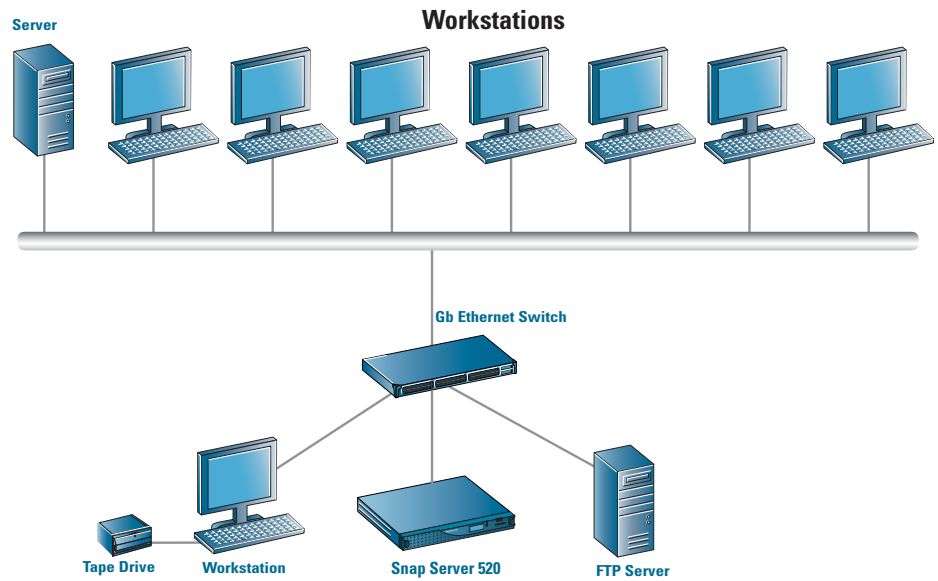### Exceptional Price/Performance

The Snap Server 520 offers class-leading price/performance, with on-the-fly scalability and provisioning.

Simple Scalability

The Snap Server 520 scales up to 44TB, offering plenty of room for growth.

Rugged Reliability

The Snap Server's rugged design and quality components stand up to rigors of real-world conditions.

Server   **Workstations**

Gb Ethernet Switch

Tape Drive   **Workstation**   **Snap Server 520**   **FTP Server**

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