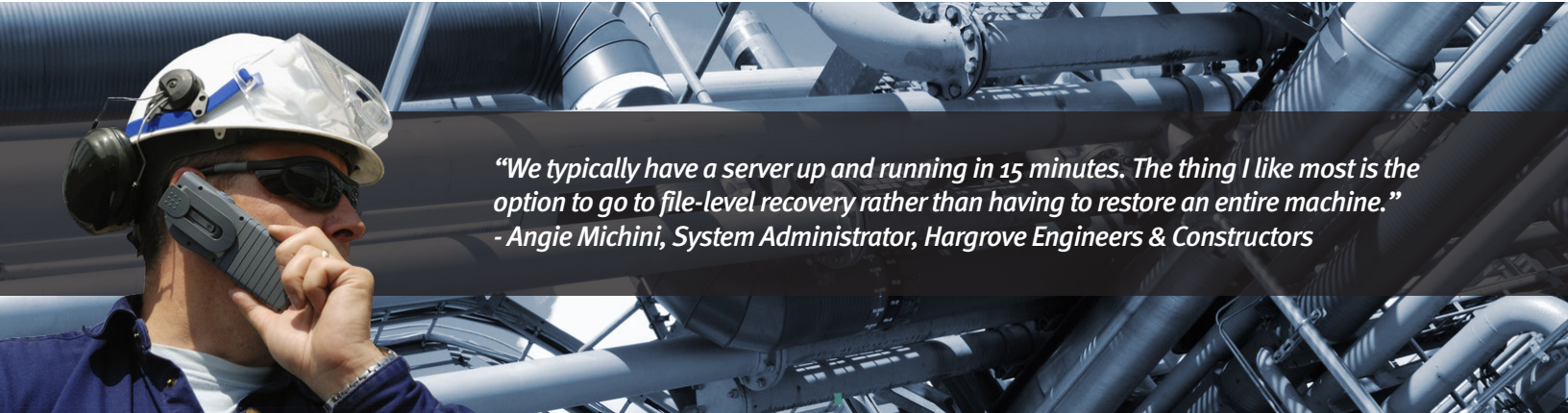# Major Engineering and Construction Company Builds Its Virtual Server Recovery Efforts on Acronis® software

Acronis®

"We typically have a server up and running in 15 minutes. The thing I like most is the option to go to file-level recovery rather than having to restore an entire machine."
- Angie Michini, System Administrator, Hargrove Engineers & Constructors

Hargrove Engineers + Constructors is a full service engineering company serving the pulp and paper, power, and petrochemical industries along with a very wide range of commercial construction opportunities. The Mobile, Alabama company operates out of five major offices in Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia and it made the Inc. 5000 list of fast-growing firms in 2010 for the fourth year in a row. Hargrove offers services ranging from civil and structural engineering to chemical and mechanical engineering and technical support. Projects are as diverse as huge chemical plants, turbine generators, a 60,000 square-foot climate-controlled warehouse, school campus buildings and both medical and biotech facilities.

Concern about recovering virtual machines quickly

With dozens of projects in play at any one time, the company is heavily dependent on the availability of computer-aided drawing applications like AutoCAD® and Bentley® Microstation™V8i to lay out the visual part of its work. As Hargrove began a virtualization effort in mid-2010 to create a more robust and efficient platform for these and other software applications, it immediately developed a parallel program to make sure that, as it virtualized the machines on its VMware® vSphere™ environment, on Dell® EqualLogic™ hosts, it could be very certain of recovering them very rapidly in the event of a failure, according to systems administrator Angie Michini. She set a goal that these machines would be returned to productivity in 15 minutes or less.

"We needed an easy way to maintain backups for virtual machines," Michini explains. *"From my research into backup solutions, Acronis was the one I kept leaning toward. We looked at Symantec® software, but didn't get to do a demo because we never got a call back from a demo download we requested. Reading what Acronis had to offer for virtualization, I was more impressed with the software's capabilities. Also I was very pleased with the response I got from the Acronis sales rep. She helped me get questions answered so I could implement a demo to get a good feel for the software before purchasing it."*

Organization:

Hargrove Engineers + Constructors
Mobile, Alabama
www.hargrove-epc.com

Sector:

Construction; Construction Engineering

Key Challenges:

Ensure the safe recovery of the company's growing virtual machine population

Environment:

VMware vSphere servers (physical and VMware) running on Dell Equalogic hosts; computer aided drawing packages for 3D and 4D projects using AutoCAD, Bentley Microstation and other products; Microsoft Exchange

Solution:

Acronis Backup & Recovery® Advanced Server Virtual Edition

Business Benefits:

- Very fast recovery capability of within 15 minutes in the event of a data loss delivers potential savings of thousands of dollars a day
- Hargrove appreciates the ability to choose between file-and-folder and system-level recoveries

After completing a nearly 45-day evaluation, Hargrove Engineering acquired three Acronis Backup & Recovery® Advanced Server Virtual Edition licenses as it entered the test phase of its virtualization effort. For now the virtualization effort is being applied primarily to its non-crucial servers. How this evolves will depend on what's needed as the virtualization effort progresses. The company has virtualized 12 servers and plans to expand the effort in 2011.

"We're not fully operational, and we're in the early stages of using Acronis," Michini says. *"But I've been very pleased with the backups and test recoveries I've done. We typically have a server up and running in 15 minutes. The thing I like most is the option to go to file-level recovery rather than having to restore an entire machine."*

While it's too early in the process to establish formal server recovery time objectives for each of its applications, the goal is always to prepare in advance to recover as quickly as possible, Machini says. *"For example, we're working on a disaster recovery plan that will allow us to carry out virtual-to-virtual server recoveries. We use Acronis to take snapshots of a virtual server so we can bring it up in a virtual server environment if we have to carry out a quick recovery. This will help ensure we can be up and running shortly after a failure."*

About Acronis

Acronis is a global provider of storage management software that enables corporations and individuals to move, manage and maintain digital assets. Acronis sells innovative solutions for disaster recovery, server consolidation and virtualization migration, which allow users to maintain business continuity and reduce downtime in computing environments. Acronis software products are sold in more than 180 countries and are available in 13 languages. For additional information, please visit www.acronis.com.

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