Case Study: Kampgrounds of America

For more than 40 years Kampgrounds of America (KOA) has been offering the perfect, convenient getaway in a safe, clean and best of all, fun environment. As North America's camping leader, KOA is proud to offer campers the chance to escape their daily routines and enjoy their freedom in unique, scenic places where fun can always be found at any of North America's 450 KOA Kampgrounds.

The Kampgrounds of America challenge

KOA was recently named in InfoWeek's Top 100 Technology Companies 2003.

"Running your mission critical applications without real-time, record-level backup is a little bit like going on a camping trip with one set of batteries. Everything goes great until the batteries die in the flashlight and you are left in the dark!" says Jef Sutherland, Vice President of Information Services at Kampgrounds of America (KOA).

"We reached a point in the number of campgrounds that used our centralized campground management system, KampSight™, that we couldn't afford for any information to ever get lost. Plus, our primary server is also our Internet and Intranet web server. We trust our iSeries server. But, if just the right conditions occurred with failing disk drives or a physical disaster took out our server room, we'd let a lot of KOA campgrounds and KOA campers down. We can't do that," Sutherland continues.

When KOA went to the market to look for iSeries real-time data & object replication solutions, they realized that a complicated high availability system with automatic fail-over wasn't what they needed.

They needed easy-to-use data replication for data integrity so that another server could do some of their night time processing, allowing users to have almost 24 x 7 access to the primary server.

Having their secondary server off-site also gave them peace-of-mind that a data center disaster wouldn't cost them their information.

 "Our goal was zero data loss and a quick recovery in the event of any unplanned outage."

Highlights:

- **Dynamic real-time data & object replication**

- **Free 30-day software trial "proof of concept"**

- **Extremely easy to install and maintain**

- **Affordable quality**

✪ MAXIMUM AVAILABILITY

KOA also found that the other High Availability (HA) products were very expensive and appeared complicated to install and manage. Some products on the market needed weeks of installation and configuration where a vendor 'replication expert' was required onsite for the duration of the implementation at a huge cost.

The *noMAX solution

"Then we found out about *noMAX from Maximum Availability! Here was a product that we could install ourselves, was easy to manage with an easy to use GUI to monitor the replication environment and guess what – very affordable! Maximum Availability also offered us a free 30-day trial so that we were able to fully test drive the software in our own environment before we made a purchase decision."

"We chose *noMAX because their product was in our price range, installation was basically free because we did it ourselves and it offered the level of features we needed for dynamic real-time data & object replication."

"*noMAX takes advantage of the very latest features of the iSeries Operating System such as Remote Journaling. When we talked to the folks at Maximum Availability, we were comfortable that they understood the iSeries platform," Sutherland says. The Information Services team at KOA spent most of their time with the data replication process determining what needed to be replicated and setting up the iSeries Journaling and Remote Journaling processes.

"Installing and running *noMAX was the easy part of this project!" said Dave Flint, KOA's System Analyst in charge of the data replication project. "*noMAX keeps all our transactions up to date between our two iSeries to the very second in real-time. It is easy to use in the day to day environment and meets all our replication needs."

For more information on *noMAX and how it can help your replication requirements please contact us:

Worldwide Headquarters

PO Box 300-523
Albany
Auckland
New Zealand
Tel: +64 9 415 7008
Fax: +64 9 415 7018
Toll free in US: 888-400-1541
Email: enquiries@maxava.com
www.maximumavailability.com

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Jef Sutherland
Vice President of Information Services
Kampgrounds of America

Jef Sutherland (left) resting his arm on KOA's secondary server, a 270. Dave Flint (right) standing next to KOA's primary server, an 810.

MAXIMUM AVAILABILITY