

## **EqualLogic SAN Recovery Case Study**

Data Analyzers was contacted by the management team of the information technology department for a large correctional facility. This was a critical system failure that had affected one of the main storage solutions utilized by the correctional facility.

They hosted a large amount of VMware virtual machines on a storage pool which was spanned across two EqualLogic Storage Area Networks. One of the SAN units failed due to a multi drive failure in the RAID-Array. The two SAN's each had a RAID controller with 16 drives attached and configured as RAID-50. Time was critical as no recent backups had been available and among other things the inmate database for both the correctional facility as well as the juvenile correction database was stored on this SAN configuration.

After the management team had already spoken to Dell EqualLogic as well as several data recovery firms without a viable solution for recovery, they contacted Data Analyzers to see if we could possibly assist with the recovery of the complex storage pool.

Data Analyzers had to deal with several factors in this situation. Firstly, the recovery was extremely time sensitive, therefore Data Analyzers needed to find the quickest route for a successful recovery. It is no secret in the data recovery industry that EqualLogic SAN devices are amongst the most complex to recover from, due to the proprietary file system and



arrangements of data blocks and metadata. Data Analyzers has spent a significant amount of time and resources to understand and decipher the complexity of how data is stored on Enterprise SAN devices. Therefore Data Analyzers has a proven track record of success when it comes to recovering data from EqualLogic SAN's. In addition to dealing with the complexity of Data block allocation, additional complexity was involved since all data was spanned across two physical SAN's. A total of 15 LUN's with approx. 14TB of data which included Exchange Servers, Clustered SQL Servers, File Servers and Application Servers.

Data Analyzers was able to extract data from the failed drives in the malfunctioning RAID array and rebuild the data. This was performed as expedited service and our RAID Recovery team worked around the clock and through the weekend to provide the quickest recovery possible.

As soon as the Raid Recovery Team was able to access data, they started extracting the most critical volumes and overnighted the data to the correctional facility. Within 5 days, including the weekend, the most critical data had been extracted and overnighted to the client's facility. Due to the large amount of data, the engineering team had decided to extract and deliver the most critical data first. The rest of the data was extracted and delivered within the 3 following days. The IT department was very much relieved once the data was received and all the virtual machines fully recovered. The VMware VM's were migrated into a new SAN and the correctional facility was able to continue with standard operations shortly thereafter.

#### About Data Analyzers:

Data Analyzers is an experienced data recovery leader that has been assisting consumers, small business, corporations as well as government agencies with both simple and complex data recovery issues. As the only U.S. based data recovery company selected for the Global data recovery alliance, we have the pleasure of sharing research and development with non-competing data recovery laboratories from around the world. The Global Data Recovery Alliance is the world's first professional association of independent commercial data recovery experts. Data Analyzers utilizes a class 100 ISO 5 Cleanroom and our data recovery engineers have developed a high degree of expertise due to extensive research and training.



To learn more about our data recovery services and capabilities visit us at [www.datanalyzers.com](http://www.datanalyzers.com)

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