APTARE reporting provides a comprehensive view across the entire backup process

It’s no secret that storage and backup environments are growing more complex, putting additional strain on organizations, users and storage administrators. As a result, reporting, long an overlooked factor of capacity and data protection strategies, is growing in importance. Organizations face the following reporting challenges:

• Users want proof that their backups are actually complete
• Users want to know exactly what they are paying for, and they want proof they are not being overcharged for storage
• Users want predictability for future storage needs
• The company wants lower OpEx, which is achieved by optimized storage and backup processes
• The company wants lower CapEx, which is achieved by improved utilization of current storage and reduced purchases of new storage
• Internal and external auditors require compliance with many diverse storage requirements and proof of compliance

Delivering Visibility into Storage and Backup

By providing extensive visibility into storage allocation, utilization and backup, APTARE IT Analytics™ helps to meet many diverse needs.

Taking Inventory

APTARE IT Analytics can discover the entire backup infrastructure—including how many backup servers, clients, policies and schedules. APTARE can even go outside the backup environment and discover storage arrays and the number of raw terabytes associated with those arrays. In a virtual environment, APTARE can discover ESX servers, the CPUs configured on those servers, switches, switch ports and more.

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<th>Array Vendors</th>
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<th>Raw TB</th>
<th>ESX Servers</th>
<th>CPUs</th>
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| Total           | 0             | 701     | 270,629        | 20          | 101           | 6,016 | 162   | 3,034      | 57   | 1,135     |       |

FIGURE 1: A typical APTARE dashboard showing backup status of distributed infrastructure.
Meeting SLAs
APTARE can also report how backup resources are performing against SLAs by determining actual client success. While most vendor reporting tools will report on the number of backup failures, APTARE reports on the ultimate success of those backups, confirming that backups were finally completed, independent of backup failures.

Backup Job and Client Status

Uncovering Problems
APTARE can alert administrators to backup issues that are not manifested in the form of errors or job failures. For example, an APTARE Suspect Client Variance Report (FIGURE 3) can alert the administrator when the volume of data in the backup is much larger or smaller than normal based on preset thresholds. Smaller data volumes can indicate an undetected backup failure. Larger data volumes can indicate that extra data is being backed up unnecessarily. In both of these cases, the problem would not be detectable via a report that only registers backup failures or errors.

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FIGURE 2: An APTARE report shows actual backup success versus job success.

FIGURE 3: APTARE alerts administrators of backup issues not related to failures.
Tracking Throughput

APTARE provides an easy-to-understand graphic dashboard showing throughput across all media servers and tape drives. Color-coded thresholds show average throughput over any period of time to highlight drive performance.

Drive performance issues can cause nightly backups to fail. Without a report like this it would be impossible to determine what was causing the backup failure. An administrator might assume that more drives are needed to complete the backups, resulting in additional capital expenditures. Using this APTARE report, an administrator can identify drives that are performing slower than expected, and take action to correct the situation, such as fixing the NIC cards, rather than purchasing more drives.

Ensuring Backup Integrity

In today’s complex backup environment, thousands of backup jobs can be processed at the same time, representing complex processes generating multiple copies in different locations. The challenge is knowing the backup process has completed properly for all required copies. APTARE can track all backup jobs and validate completion of all copies to show stakeholders or auditors. Without APTARE it would be almost impossible to monitor and validate every backup job. With APTARE this information is available with one click.

FIGURE 4: Backup performance is tracked in this APTARE report.

FIGURE 5: APTARE provides insight into the success of multiple backups of the same data.
Outlining Chargebacks

APTARE chargeback reports offer granular visibility into storage allocation and utilization for chargeback purposes. The report outlines exactly how much storage was used by each department or other stakeholder. Server groups can even be created for each department. APTARE can identify if the storage is physical or virtual, if it is running Oracle or SQL Server or if the servers are being replicated—all the metrics that impact the cost of the storage, assembled in a single universal chargeback report.

In addition, the administrator can associate a specific dollar value to the megabytes backed up, or to various tiers of storage, further clarifying exact costs in the chargeback report.

Identifying Retention Periods

The APTARE NBU Ad Hoc Occupancy Distribution Report shows all backup data and its retention period, enabling easy identification of retention policies that have been set incorrectly.
Planning for the Future

APTARE reports can show available capacity per stakeholder or across the enterprise based on current utilization. By setting variables, such as percentage increase in clients, administrators can use APTARE to predict future utilization and costs for specific time periods and pinpoint when additional capacity will need to be purchased.

![APTARE calculates future storage needs.](image)

Improving Capacity Utilization and Reducing CapEx

The visibility provided by APTARE reports helps customers achieve a variety of benefits, including improved capacity utilization, reduced CapEx on storage purchases, increased administrator productivity, strengthened data protection and audit compliance.

The following are a few real world examples:

Customer Discovers Incorrect Retention Policies

One APTARE customer used the solution to identify retention periods on an unusually large backup of 171 TB of data written in one week. The report showed that the majority of the data had a long-term retention period. Drilling into the information on the clients, APTARE found that the retention policies had been incorrectly set to infinite retention. The customer was not aware this was happening until they ran the APTARE report. By correcting this situation and eliminating these backups the customer saved hundreds of thousands of dollars per year and achieved ROI on APTARE within the first week.

Customer Uncovers Underutilized Drives

A customer was unsure whether 18 drives in the tape library would satisfy the company’s backup requirements. Using APTARE, they were able to see that 50 percent of the drives were underutilized and took steps to reduce backup volume in one data center by 16 percent. This delayed the purchase of at least one backup system for 12 months. In addition, the streamlined process provided by APTARE reduced capacity planning reporting from three days per week to two hours.

Visit APTARE.com today to learn how you can make your backup environment more efficient through greater visibility.