Success Story

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CBRE Group reduces unstructured MS Office data volume on NetApp FAS2020 and FAS2050 in France

CBRE Group, Inc is the world's largest commercial real estate services firm and a Fortune 500 and S&P 500 company headquartered in Los Angeles, California. The company has approximately 31,000 employees and serves real estate owners, investors and occupiers through more than 300 offices worldwide. The IT department at CBRE France, responsible for 750 employees now reduces unstructured files by 35% to over 50% with FILEminimizer Server.

"We are using balesio's FILEminimizer Server to keep our unstructured data volume down. We are very satisfied how the software gets the job done."

Clément Ekstein
Chef de Projets (Project Manager)
CBRE France

Key Highlights

ORGANISATION:

CBRE Group Inc., France

STORAGE ENVIRONMENT:

NetApp FAS2020 and NetApp FAS2050 accessed via Windows Server 2008 R2

INDUSTRY:

Real Estate Services

CHALLENGES:

- Exploding data volume of unstructured MS Office files
- Increased backups and increasing backup windows
- Strains on network and bandwidth

SOLUTION:

balesio FILEminimizer Server

ACHIEVED RESULTS:

- 30-35% unstructured data reduction when run in performance-optimized mode
- 50% and more unstructured data reduction when run in capacity-optimized mode

CUSTOMER PROFILE

The CBRE Group, Inc. operates in France via its subsidiary in Paris and 12 further offices in the country. In addition, 23 regional partners belong to CBRE France. 750 employees in France ensure that CBRE remains a top address for real estate services in France and contribute to CBRE Group, Inc.'s success as the No.1 commercial real estate provider worldwide.

THE CHALLENGE: UNSTRUCTURED, FAST-GROWING MS OFFICE DATA VOLUME

With 730 employees in France alone, the CBRE Group frequently creates PowerPoint decks, Word documents and Excel tables and saves them on the firms NAS system. While this is necessary, this unstructured MS Office data volume on primary storage not only takes up a lot of space on the NAS, it also puts a heavy strain on the communication bandwidth, network traffic and backup system.

THE SOLUTION: FILEMINIMIZER SERVER

The CBRE Group chose to tackle the problem at the source and on the primary storage itself with FILEminimizer Server. It installed the software on a Windows Server 2008 R2 which is connected to the firm's two FAS NAS systems by NetApp. The software's ability to reduce the size of unstructured files without changing the original file format put the IT department in a position to fight unstructured data growth effectively on primary storage. The software now runs periodically and optimizes unstructured files older than 2 months in one of two ways – either performance-optimizing or capacity-optimizing.

BUSINESS BENEFITS

Shortly after the deployment of the solution, the firm reduced significantly its primary storage requirements. When operated for performance-maximization, the storage space gains amount to approx. 30-35% whereas the savings are as high as 50% when the software operated in the capacity-optimization mode. Consequently, CBRE France could so far gain back a large share of previously occupied primary storage. Furthermore, network traffic and bandwidth could be reduced as optimized, permanently smaller unstructured files are also much smarter in the network. While previous to the software, unstructured files showed a strong annual growth rate, this growth could also be flattened and contained with FILEminimizer Server. For Clément Ekstein, responsible Project Manager at CBRE France, it is a true success story: *"We are using balesio's FILEminimizer Server to keep our unstructured data volume down. And we are very satisfied how the software gets the job done."*