

## The MCPS-PRS Alliance Customer Success Story



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*– Terry Rumsey,  
Project Manager,  
ISG-Technology*

### Music Right Distribution Alliance Deploys Flexible Quantum PX720 Library to Optimize Performance and Capacity

Heavy metal is all the rage at the MCPS-PRS. The alliance of the UK Mechanical Copyright Protection Society (MCPS) and the Performing Right Society (PRS) have deployed a reliable, high density and flexible Quantum PX720 Enterprise Tape Library with DLT-S4 tape drives to improve the performance of their existing backup environment. The enterprise-class solution helped the MCPS-PRS to reduce backup and recovery administration from three hours each day to 30 minutes and manage a three fold increase in the size of its nightly backup.

#### Collecting and distributing music royalties

The Performing Right Society (PRS) collects and distributes license fees for the public performance and broadcast of musical works. It comprises a membership organization of composers, songwriters, authors and publishers of music of all styles including classical, pop, jazz and music for films, advertisements and TV. There are currently in excess of 44,000 PRS members. The Mechanical-Copyright Protection Society (MCPS) collects and distributes 'mechanical' royalties generated from the recording of music onto many different formats. The income is distributed to their members – writers and publishers of music. The MCPS currently represents more than 18,000 composers, songwriters and music publishers. To make the best use of their individual strengths, they are now working as an operational alliance: The MCPS-PRS Alliance.

The Alliance has steadily enhancing its ability to measure, collect and distribute royalties, which has resulted in a substantial increase in data. The Alliance uses music usage data from many sources to determine how royalties are paid to members. In recent years, the analysis of this data has been extended so, for example, where only national radio stations were fully analyzed to determine

how many times musical works were played, this has been extended to include local radio stations as well as other media. As a result, data substantially increased in size year on year and the existing Veritas Backup Exec Shared Storage Option (SSO) environment was struggling to cope. Backup on the Alliance's Storage Area Network (SAN) was increasingly slow and unreliable.

Terry Rumsey, Project Manager at systems integration specialist and MCPS-PRS service delivery partner ISG-Technology, explains what happened next. "We have an overnight batch window in which to process batch jobs, all controlled by the scheduling software," he explains. We commonly experienced tape communications problems though. The solution was to backup to disk and then to the existing backup tape library using SDLT 320 tape drives. Capacity improved, but the speed of backup was still a problem. We were struggling to complete the overnight backup within the timeframe owing to the volume of data."

The MCPS-PRS infrastructure comprises 120 Windows-based HP Proliant servers, four HP SAN sub-systems, and a new HP EVA8000 storage array SAN which was deployed earlier this year. "With the arrival of the EVA array, we needed a more flexible, fast and efficient tape-based backup solution. It had to be a reliable tape library device, which would manage tapes more efficiently than the existing solution, where we were switching tapes week in, week out," said Rumsey.

#### Reliability and flexibility in a library

It was into this environment that MCPS-PRS chose to deploy a Quantum PX720 enterprise library, with eight native Fibre Quantum DLT-S4 tape drives. Blending highly reliable robotics, the flexibility to accommodate between one and 20 drives, and up to 726 cartridges, the PX720 offers the MCPS-PRS Alliance the flexibility



### THE PROJECT AT A GLANCE

#### Key Benefits

- Provided the flexibility to support burgeoning backup and recovery needs
- Cost-effective, reliable, and high performance backup and restore
- Quantum DLT-S4 drives provide capacity and security features to easily manage data
- Reduced backup process from three hours to 30 minutes
- Increased the capacity to manage up to six TB each night from two TB each night

#### Solution

- Quantum PX720 enterprise-class library
- Quantum DLT-S4 drives and DLT-S4 media
- SAN network for backup of music publishing data under Windows
- 120 Windows-based HP Proliant servers
- Four HP SAN sub-systems
- HP EVA8000 storage array SAN

and versatility to support its burgeoning backup and recovery needs. With innovative features such as Web-based management and monitoring, plus redundant power supplies, the PX720 offers the Alliance cost-effective, reliable and high performance backup and restore. The solution was implemented in collaboration with Cognitive Network Solutions.

Part of the reason for the cost-effective, high performance reliability was the decision to deploy native Fibre DLT-S4 drives in the PX720. The Alliance has eight drives (1,600GB of compressed storage per drive) and together they offer the capacity, manageability and security features needed to easily manage data. The systems software was also upgraded at the same time with Symantec NetBackup being deployed to replace the struggling Backup Exec system.

All of this is wrapped up with Quantum StorageCare™ Guardian support, a remote monitoring and diagnostic solution that enables Quantum to proactively monitor the health of the MCPS-PRS library over the internet and use intelligent diagnostics data to remotely service the equipment if issues arise. "We were an early adopter of the Quantum DLT-S4 drives and we've been very pleased with the support we've received – especially as did have a few teething problems. This, however, was quickly resolved with all round great support from experienced professionals," said Rumsey.

"We're now sharing the drives among the servers, managed by NetBackup," he continued. "We have three backup media servers that can use any of the eight drives, but we limit it to two drives using the Vault feature. This way, the drives are never a bottleneck, we can run them as hard as we want, and the backup never has to wait."

Previously, using the old tape library device coupled with Backup Exec, meant up to three hours each day were devoted to investigating, checking, and fixing the backup process. Now, using the extensive automation functionality of the new solution, this has been reduced to 30 minutes. Moreover, the old environment was sized to manage two TB of backup each night. The new Quantum system can manage up to six TB each night and twice that during the weekend's full backup.

"The solution will serve the MCPS-PRS for at least the next five years; we can add capacity and performance seamlessly as demand grows," said Rumsey. "Altogether, we're really pleased with the solution and the quality of support we're receiving from both Quantum and Cognitive."

#### About Quantum

Quantum, a global leader in storage, delivers highly reliable backup, recovery and archive solutions that meet demanding requirements for data integrity and availability with superior price/performance and comprehensive service and support. In addition to its DLTape™ technology-based tape drives and media, Quantum offers a broad portfolio of tape autoloaders and libraries and disk-based backup systems.

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