



## COROID CASE STUDY

### Ethernet SAN Optimizes Microsoft SQL and digitized images serving for Notrefamille.com

#### CHALLENGE

Deploy a high performance database infrastructure for serving hundreds of millions of genealogy records and millions of images over the web.

#### SOLUTION

Coraid EtherDrive® SRX4200  
Coraid EtherDrive® VSX3500  
No Single Point of Failure  
Architecture

#### BENEFITS

By turning to Coraid to build an Ethernet SAN Notrefamille.com found an enterprise-class solution that was 25% less expensive than Fibre Channel, improved throughput to their servers, reduced complexity, and made future growth simple and cost-effective.

#### CUSTOMER OVERVIEW

Notrefamille.com operates multiple Internet portals in France. Its Internet portals include Notrefamille.com for family environment; Genealogie.com, which provides reference service for French-speaking genealogists; and Cadeaux.com that engages in the on-line sale of personalized gifts. The company is based in Paris, France.

#### PARTNER OVERVIEW

Alyseo is a leading storage and virtualization systems integrator in France. Alyseo offers customers in Europe innovative system solutions based on the best available technologies.

#### BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Operating multiple web properties including France's largest genealogy site, Notrefamille.com depends on their IT infrastructure for their business. Their Microsoft SQL database serves hundreds of millions of records while their users could access a large repository of digitized images. Notrefamille.com places a high premium on an always on infrastructure with high performance but at a cost point that allows them to be competitive with other web sites.

Previously, Notrefamille.com had been using a Fibre Channel SAN solution from a multi-national vendor, but found the solution very expensive. Plus, the cost to expand the solution was prohibitive, and the SAN was very complex to manage. "The Fibre Channel solution was very expensive in terms of Opex and ongoing maintenance," said Nicolas Menoux, CTO of Notrefamille.com. "We wanted a solution that is more efficient, more practical, and does not involve specialized hardware."

Notrefamille.com turned to their IT partner, Alyseo, to help design a storage system that would scale with their business, provide assured performance, and reduce downtime but with the economics of standard, off-the-shelf hardware. They did not want a specialized or proprietary solution.

#### SOLUTION

In early 2011, Alyseo assisted Notrefamille.com in the deployment of a production storage system based on the Coraid EtherDrive Ethernet SAN. Notrefamille.com transitioned the genealogy database, user photos, and the entire web site to the new infrastructure.

Notrefamille.com attached multiple compute servers to the SAN including a Microsoft Windows file server for the photos, an image processing server, a Microsoft SQL database for the records, and a secondary SQL database tied to a

*snapshot of the database for development. The team utilized the snapshot capabilities of EtherDrive VSX to provide just-in-time copies of the database. They deployed the storage in a no single point of failure architecture using the Coraid EtherDrive VSX storage virtualization appliance in conjunction the EtherDrive SRX 4200 serving 72TB of raw storage. Each VSX and SRX appliance was mirrored with dual paths from the server HBAs through redundant Ethernet switches. This fully redundant configuration ensures that no one hardware failure can cause a halt in operations.*

### **BENEFITS**

*Since the Coraid Ethernet SAN storage deployment, Notrefamille.com's web businesses continue to grow non-disruptively on a cost-effective, scalable storage solution. As Nicolas Menoux said, "The scale out of data is less expensive than traditional SAN. When we want to add more storage we just add another unit, without worrying about getting hit with a big expense to add new controllers." Nicolas Menoux estimates that the Coraid solution was 25% less than the cost of their previous storage based on Fibre Channel.*

*The solution also meets Notrefamille.com's performance requirements. The Coraid storage is "very efficient, especially for multipathing; just add another link to increase throughput." At the same time, EtherDrive is "very simple to manage" according to Nicolas Menoux. Adding the storage to their Windows Server environment was trivial, helping the deployment complete very quickly and ahead of schedule.*

*Notrefamille.com offered their thanks to Alyseo for introducing them to this "innovative and very promising technology." "We are very happy working with Alyseo," said Nicolas Menoux. "We can rely on them for the right infrastructure right from the beginning. If we need extra features, they help find a solution."*

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