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EMC DiskXtender for Windows

Automated, policy-based file system archiving for long-term data retention

Overview

A key building block in an information lifecycle management (ILM) strategy, EMC® DiskXtender® for Windows is a highly scalable data management solution that reclaims production storage, speeds backup and recovery processes, and helps to meet data retention requirements. DiskXtender for Windows migrates inactive or infrequently accessed files to the appropriate storage resource according to user-defined polices. Policies are based on file attributes such as last access date, file size, type, or owner—enabling flexible policy choices.

DiskXtender for Windows automatically deletes, purges, or moves data between storage tiers. Through Microsoft Windows File Explorer, files are migrated transparently, without changing the user's view or access. Files can be retrieved with a double-click of the filename or an application call. If a retrieved file is unchanged at the next scheduled DiskXtender session, it will automatically be migrated back to the archive. Alternately, with DiskXtender's direct-read capability, files may be read directly from archive storage without retrieving them to primary disk.
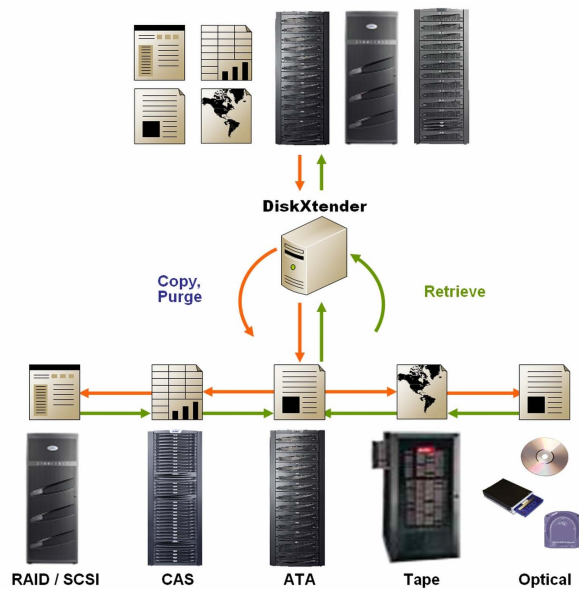
For document discovery, DiskXtender for Windows offers an optional search module that gives organizations the ability to index data on a DiskXtender for Windows-managed drive and then later search and view the data. DiskXtender for Windows provides a best practice file archiving solution to reduce storage costs, simplify capacity management, ensure consistent data-retention policies, and enable fast location of files when needed.

Managing primary storage capacity

Inactive data can occupy as much as 80 percent of total primary storage. DiskXtender for Windows virtually extends server-based, DAS-based, or SAN-based capacity by automatically migrating inactive files from primary to archive storage tiers. DiskXtender wizards are used to set up policies that migrate files at scheduled intervals or according to defined capacity thresholds. The result is a continuous operation that frees up primary storage for new and active data.

Improving backup and recovery performance

DiskXtender for Windows streamlines data protection by substantially reducing backup data sets. Once files are archived, DiskXtender for Windows works with any backup and recovery application that captures Windows extended attributes. Because DiskXtender for Windows does not recall migrated and purged files during data protection operations, it speeds the backup process and eliminates multiple backups of the same data. Downtime is also reduced because recoveries need only bring back file metadata, not the entire file.

The Big Picture

- Provides policy-based file archiving in Windows environments

- Migrates inactive or infrequently accessed files to an archive tier of storage

- Aligns file access and retention requirements to facilitate compliance

- Indexes and searches drives managed by DiskXtender to locate files for legal discovery

- Reduces backup data sets to speed backup and recovery

- Lowers costs for storage infrastructure

- Automates and simplifies data management

- Transparently moves and retrieves data

- Supports a wide range of archive storage devices, including EMC Centera content-addressed storage, Fibre Channel, SCSI or ATA disk, optical, and tape.

Automated file-system archiving lowers storage costs, improves application performance, and helps meet compliance requirements

Meeting regulatory requirements

DiskXtender for Windows minimizes legal and regulatory risks by identifying files according to file attributes and migrating them to a protected central repository. When tamper-proof records are required, DiskXtender for Windows preserves files on EMC Centera® content-addressed storage or write once, read many (WORM) media systems. The tight integration with EMC Centera means that DiskXtender for Windows can migrate inactive or fixed-content data to a purpose-built archive that assures content authenticity and addresses regulatory requirements. DiskXtender for Windows policies determine what content is to be retained, for what period, and in what form. It then moves files that match migration criteria to EMC Centera.

Lowering cost of ownership

A tiered-storage infrastructure is the cornerstone of an ILM strategy and allows organizations to choose cost and service levels that match the business value of their data. DiskXtender for Windows helps to fully implement tiered storage by automatically moving data among storage tiers—simplifying management and reducing manual intervention by IT staff. In addition, DiskXtender for Windows is able to write to multiple storage targets during a single file migration, which provides additional layers of data protection.

Locating files for legal discovery

DiskXtender for Windows Search Module delivers file index and search across DiskXtender-managed drives on servers, DAS, and SAN storage, allowing companies to locate both active and archived files for audit, analysis, and legal discovery. The search module can search a single index or a collection of indexes managed by DiskXtender for Windows to support accurate, fast, and affordable document discovery.

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Take the next step
To learn more about EMC DiskXtender for Windows, visit **www.EMC.com** or call **800.607.9546** (outside the U.S.: +1.925.600.5802).