

Avance Synchronized Split-Site Deployment Brings Enhanced Disaster Recovery to SMBs



Evaluate your current business continuity plan?

- If a “minor disaster” struck, would your customers, suppliers, and employees find your recovery time acceptable?
- Do you know how much data you stand to lose, and what the cost would be to your business operation?
- Does your disaster recovery process involve finding or replacing application and operating system installation CDs; waiting for tape backups to arrive; setting up fresh servers and reinstalling everything from scratch with 12-48 hour old data?

SMBs are now able to make enterprise-class disaster recovery an integral part of their business continuity plans.

Stratus Avance software: business continuity without compromise

According to the US Bureau of Labor, 93 percent of companies that suffer a significant data loss are out of business within five years. Even in the face of such dire consequences, the vast majority of small to medium businesses (SMBs) and remote branch offices still rely on tape backups as their only business continuity plan. From a cost/benefit perspective, these organizations often view such solutions as their only viable choice.

Although the chance of a tsunami, terrorist attack or other major disaster is quite remote, smaller organizations need to find a better way to address the risks that can bring their daily business operations quickly to a halt. Most business continuity plans fail to address the primary causes of prolonged IT outages in these environments. Localized “minor disasters” such as lightning strikes, structural damage, hard equipment failure or even theft often place heavy financial and recovery burdens on IT organizations with limited resources.

An effective business continuity plan can ensure that an organization is prepared to overcome most business interruptions in a few seconds or minutes – not hours or days.

Until now, very few SMBs have been able to include an enterprise-class disaster recovery solution as part of their business continuity plan. The complexity and cost of setting up and managing a comprehensive recovery solution has remained an ongoing barrier for many organizations. Today, Stratus® Avance™ high availability software offers a cost-effective alternative for business continuity and disaster recovery that is easy to deploy and manage.

Avance software from Stratus Technologies is a single, off-the-shelf software product that provides better than four nines availability, without the need for sophisticated IT skills or additional staff. With the introduction of split-site deployment, Avance transforms business continuity planning for small businesses from an exercise in damage control to an endeavor that ensures minimal downtime and rapid recovery from localized disaster. Avance high-availability software lowers IT costs, improves application availability and offers a split-site configuration designed to meet the business continuity requirements of smaller organizations and remote locations.



Avance split-site deployment provides an immediate, cost-effective way to protect business continuity.



The requirements for setting up an Avance split-site deployment are minimal. The benefits are immediate and long lasting.

The Stratus Avance unit is comprised of Avance high-availability software and two x86 servers that run business processes inside virtual machines (VMs). All of the VMs typically run on one member of the server pair at the same time, and are synchronously mirrored to the other server. In most cases of unexpected hardware failure, the Avance software automatically preserves all business functions without disruption of service. In the most extreme failure scenarios, service is automatically restored within a few minutes.

Physical separation of the server pair provides immediate protection against a variety of localized disaster scenarios that would otherwise result in downtime and data loss. In split-site deployments like these, the Avance servers can be located in separate locations up to three miles apart.

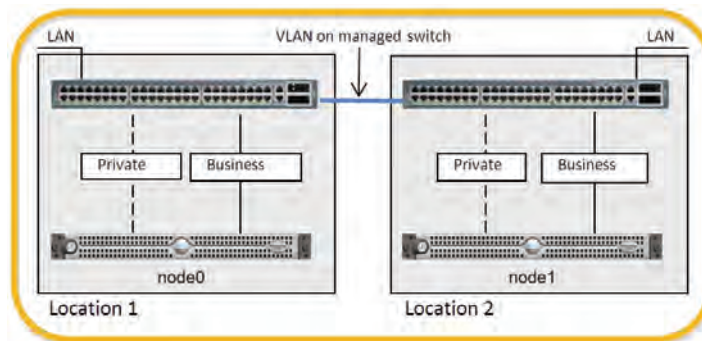
Advantages of a split-site solution

- Data is synchronously replicated, not backed-up, overcoming the risk of stale data
- Avance protects you against downtime and complex recovery mechanisms. As a result, recovery time objective (RTO) the length of time it takes to get back into service and Recovery Point Objective, the point in time from which you recover your data, are concerns of the past.
- There is no need for manual restoration when a server is replaced in an Avance configuration. The return to disaster recovery mode is automated and takes about 30 minutes from the time the replacement server is attached.
- This automated low-cost, low-overhead solution eliminates the need for highly skilled IT specialists and relieves you of routine day-to-day management activities.

Three basic requirements ensure rapid split-site deployment.

- Each business link must be on the same subnet as its matching link on the other node.
- The two servers must have a single dedicated 1Gb private link that cannot be routed. If interconnections are required on the private link then non-blocking switches and a dedicated VLAN must be employed.
- The round trip latency of the private link can be no more than 10ms. Latency can be calculated at 1 ms per 100 miles of fiber. Non-routed, non-blocking switches have a negligible latency of less than 1 ms that can be safely ignored at shorter distances. Note that this latency calculation is provided as a rule of thumb; your latency may vary and should be tested for your particular deployment.

A split-site configuration



Setting up your Avance split-site configuration is easy and straightforward.

Specifications and descriptions are summary in nature and subject to change without notice.

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