



Virtual Tape Libraries

Improving Backup Productivity in a Multi- Data

Centre Environment

Fiona Speakes

Company Background



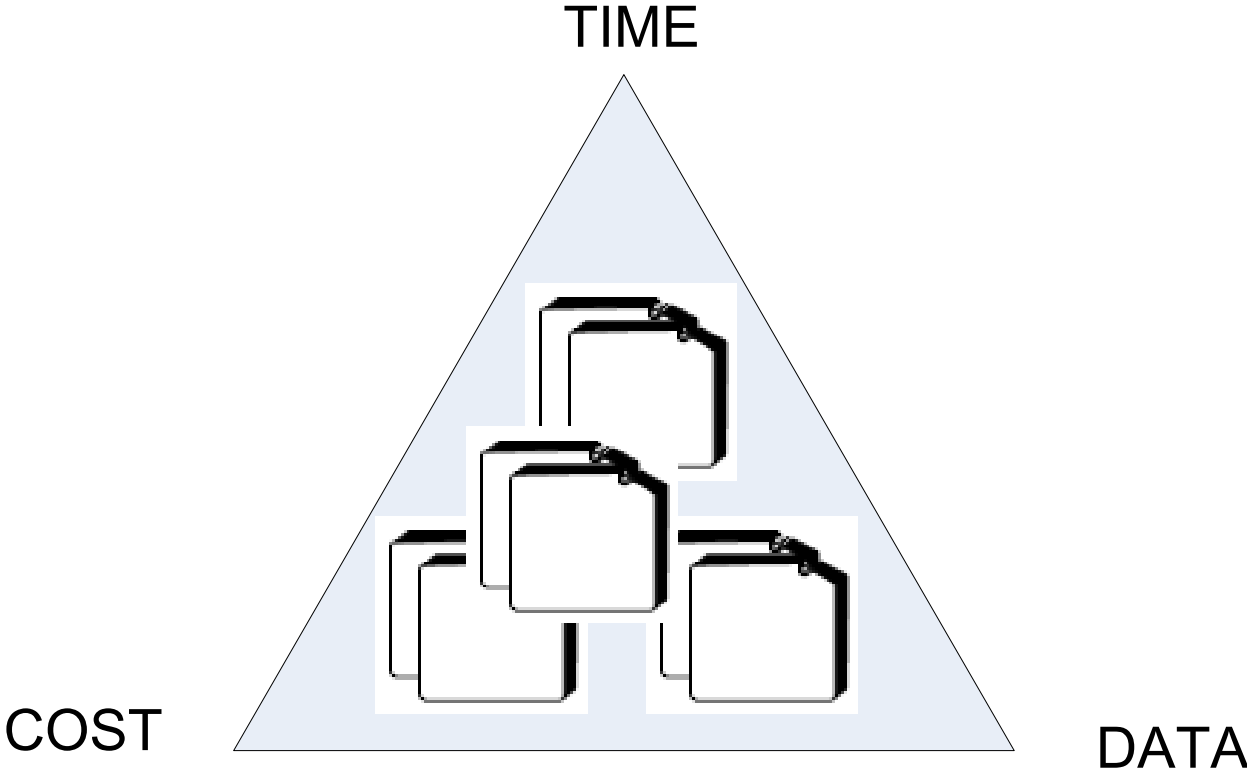
- The company Virgin Media was created by the merger of two other companies – Telewest and ntl:
- The acquisition of Virgin Mobile earlier this year has made us the first company to provide a quad-play offering of broadband, fixed line telephony, television and mobile phone.
- Many disparate processes and procedures from the two companies, all looking to be standardised
- Some synergies across the companies, but also many differences

Challenges



- Implementing a standard backup and recovery platform for the business
- Implementing standard backup policies across the business
- Ensuring that all data is recoverable in a timely manner
- Ensuring the security of all data
- Managing the increasing amount of data, whilst managing the cost
- Definition and implementation of SLA's to the business for backup and recovery services
- Ensuring business continuity
- Legislative compliance

Consideration Pyramid



So – why a Virtual Tape Library?



- There are at least four ways in which a VTL could be used in our environment:
 - A faster mechanism for backup and recovery of the primary copy of the data
 - Copying onsite data from one site to a remote site
 - Long term storage of archived data
 - Legacy data storage

Faster backup/recovery mechanism

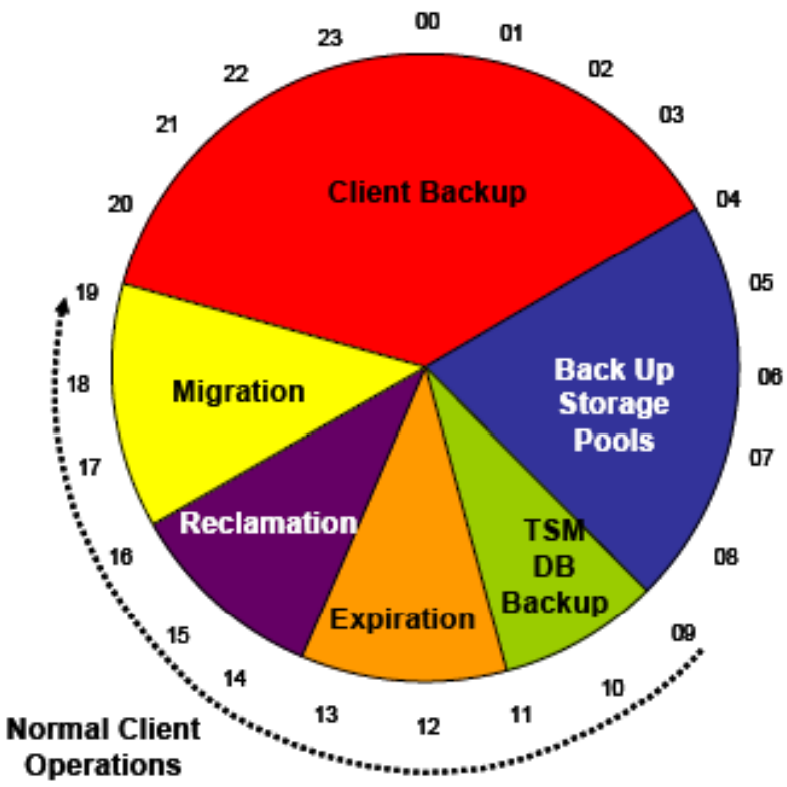


- For:
 - Cutting primary copy to VTL for a period of time
 - Still require a secondary copy to be held on 'real' tape
 - Virtually no mount and locate times required for restores
 - Any number of drives can be allocated
 - Potential decrease in housekeeping time
- Against:
 - High cost for long term storage

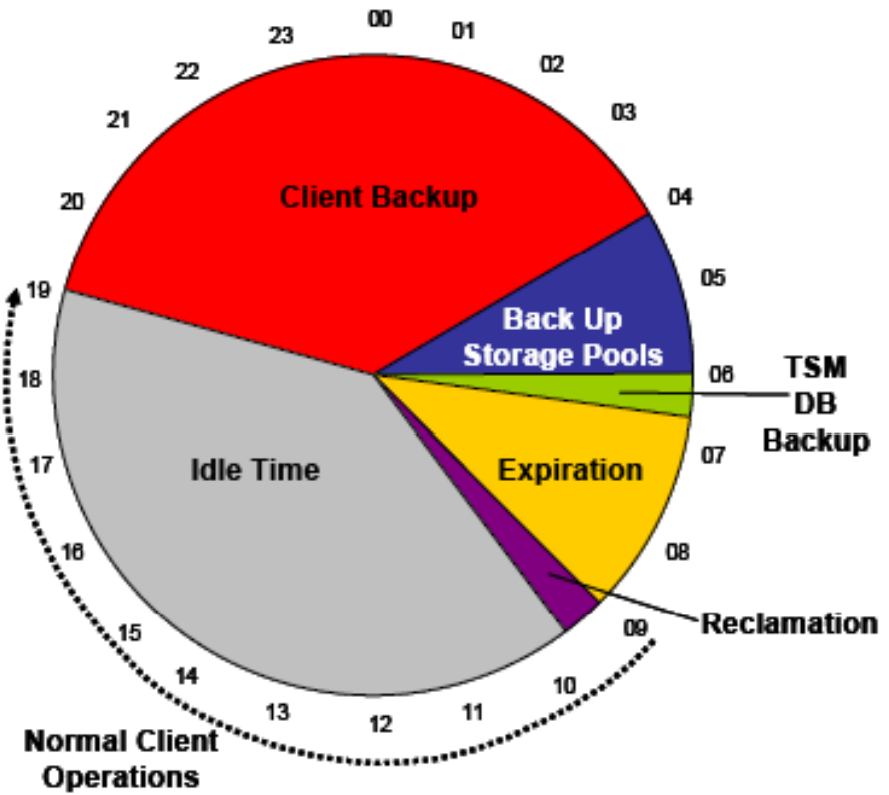
Potential time savings



Pre VTL operations



Post VTL operations



Business Continuity



- For:
 - Offsite data copies immediately available at a remote site
 - No need to physically move tapes, eliminating risk of accidental damage in transit

- Against:
 - Network bandwidth must be available
 - Cost

Long term data storage



- For:
 - No need to rewrite tapes over time, data will be 'spinning' on disk
 - Compliance / regulatory restore times will reduce
 - 'Green' – reduced requirement for footprint, cooling, and other environmental concerns

- Against:
 - Cost
 - Data growth over time

Legacy data storage



- From the merger of the companies there are many different systems in use
- How do we ensure that we can always recover data from previous backup technologies?
- VTL can be used to replicate different libraries and different tape technologies – in one footprint if required
- Maintenance savings on superseded technologies
- Compliance