



## Quest Speeds Oracle RMAN Backup Time by 50% While Reducing Storage Space by 75% with LiteSpeed®

Like all organizations, Quest Software looks for ways to get the most out of the technology it already has in order to keep costs down. By improving its global backup and recovery operations, the company recognized it could not only save money, but also reduce risks and improve regulatory compliance.

First, Quest needed to reduce the size of its backups. A typical production system backup at Quest processes about 35 TB of data. About 65% of that data is associated with the operating system, department fileshares, SharePoint, Exchange, and other environments used for day-to-day operations. "There isn't much we can do to reduce the time required to back up that data," explained Carol Fawcett, Vice President of IS for Quest. However, the remaining 35% of the data lies within the databases, and Quest recognized that the size of database backups could be reduced effectively. "Since Quest uses both Oracle and SQL Server, we needed a solution that would reduce the size of the database data being backed up, and have similar functionality on both platforms," said Fawcett.

Second, Quest needed to do the backups more quickly. The IS team typically runs a full or partial backup to disk every day, and later backs the data up to tape. Each day's backup to disk overwrites the backup from the previous night, so if the backup to tape is not complete, data can be lost. Unfortunately, an enterprise backup was taking an average of 30 hours, so the risk of data loss was high. Backup time had to be reduced to no more than 24 hours.

Lastly, Quest needed to be able to recover data faster, which would enhance employee productivity and reduce frustration. For example, developers working with the company's Oracle Financials application face very aggressive project schedules. "If that team needs a previous version of the database restored and has to wait for someone to fetch the necessary tape from offsite storage facility, the productivity loss can be significant, with developers, contractors, DBAs and potentially even end users just sitting around and waiting," said Fawcett. "And knowing they're wasting time creates aggravation and more stress, which degrades morale."

Fawcett also pointed out Quest has legal obligations to recover data as quickly as possible. "As a public company, Quest is subject to regulations that require we retrieve data within certain timeframes, so we wanted to ensure our compliance with those laws," she explained.

### The Quest Solution

LiteSpeed® is a fast and flexible backup and recovery solution that provides common functionality for heterogeneous Oracle and SQL Server database environments. Its low-impact, high-performance compression technology compresses data up to 95 percent, so backups take less than half the time required by other backup solutions and storage costs are reduced. In addition, LiteSpeed accelerates restore times by up to 70 percent. It can be integrated seamlessly into existing backup infrastructures, and DBAs maintain complete control over the backup and recovery process.

Quest had been using LiteSpeed for SQL Server for several years. When LiteSpeed® Engine for Oracle became available, the IS team tested its effectiveness. The first test ran in a small 2 GB environment; LiteSpeed produced a backup file that was a quarter of its original size. Next, the team tested backups of a 260 GB production database. A backup using just RMAN compression brought the backup file size down to 180 GB. LiteSpeed Engine for Oracle reduced the same backup file to just 45 GB—a 75% improvement over RMAN compression. The team quickly adopted LiteSpeed Engine for Oracle to complement LiteSpeed for SQL Server.

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- Carol Fawcett  
VP of IS  
Quest Software

### Overview

#### Headquarters

Aliso Viejo, California

#### Services

IT software

#### Critical Needs

To reduce backup size and improve backup and recovery times

#### Solution

LiteSpeed Engine for Oracle and LiteSpeed for SQL Server Enterprise

#### Results

- Delivered backup space savings of 50 percent, reducing storage costs
- Reduced backup times, ensuring completion within backup window
- Integrated easily into existing backup processes
- Reduced recovery time
- Delivered immediate value and an ROI that continues to increase

## The Bottom Line

The LiteSpeed products have reduced the size of Quest's database backups by 50 percent. One database dropped from 137 GB to 69 GB. "Before LiteSpeed, we could store only two database-instances on a single drive; now we can fit almost 11 instances on each drive," said Fawcett. And with the 50 percent reduction in backup size came a corresponding 50 percent reduction in backup time to tape, from 4.5 hours to 2.25 hours.

Equally important, LiteSpeed ensures that Quest's enterprise backup process completes within the 24-hour window required, mitigating the risk of data loss. "The time required to perform an enterprise backup has been reduced from 30 hours to less than a day, which is fantastic, because you can't buy an extra hour even if you do purchase more storage," noted Fawcett.

Quest's IS department was also impressed with the non-intrusive way in which LiteSpeed integrated into its Oracle and SQL Server environments. "We have a variety of RMAN scripts we rely on," explained Fawcett. "Installing LiteSpeed had no impact on those scripts. We didn't have to take DBAs or SysAdmins away from other projects to rewrite any of the scripts. LiteSpeed just sits on top of them."

Fawcett considers LiteSpeed a "triple threat" for backup and recovery savings. "Using LiteSpeed we can back up more data in less amount of space, ensure that backups are finished in our critical 24-hour window, and ensure data is secure," she explained. "It's just common sense for us. With savings all the way around, it's a no-brainer."

## About Quest Software, Inc.

Quest Software, Inc., a leading enterprise systems management vendor, delivers innovative products that help organisations get more performance and productivity from their applications, databases, Windows infrastructure and virtual environments. Quest also provides customers with client management through its ScriptLogic subsidiary and server virtualisation management through its Vizioncore subsidiary. Through a deep expertise in IT operations and a continued focus on what works best, Quest helps more than 100,000 customers worldwide meet higher expectations for enterprise IT. Quest Software can be found in offices around the globe and at [www.quest.com](http://www.quest.com).

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