Information Sheet

How Otium Disk Space manager can help reduce the chances of unplanned downtime

Downtime is a necessity in any IT environment. Even the most robust systems have to be taken off line for scheduled maintenance. Whilst reducing the total amount of downtime in many business environments is very important, often the most critical factor is actually **when** the downtime occurs.

If downtime is an unplanned emergency measure, even when it is short lived it can have far reaching effects.

As an extreme example take examination boards. For 11 months of every year they can accept downtime during working hours without significant effect on every day activity. However during the exam marking period, these bodies become 24 x 7 operations where even the smallest period of unplanned system downtime for maintenance cannot be tolerated.

Otium's Utilistor Disk Space Monitor is an excellent tool for ensuring that IT managers to not get caught out by disks and volumes suddenly running out of disk space. It also proactively informs when performance of any particular disk is starting to drop (a common signal that a real problem is on it's way).

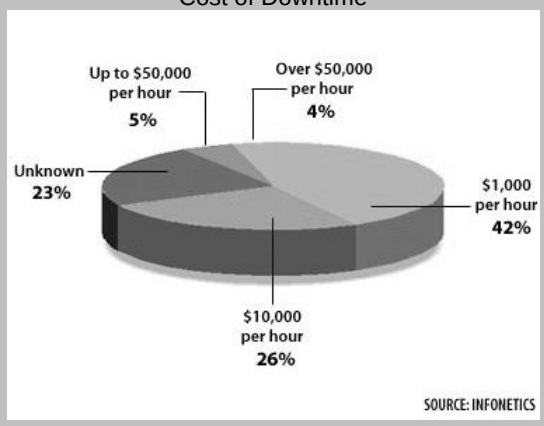
Keeping a watchful eye on the utilisation and I/O performance of every disk and volume on every server in your company is something most IT administrators do not have the time to do. Unfortunately this can mean that a reactive approach to disk utilisation issues can prevail. Inconvenient downtime for users to conduct unscheduled maintenance or even worse a system failure occurs because a disk fails or runs out of space before The IT even realise there is an issue.

By running DSM, an automated "eye" is cast over every system on your network ensuring that IT administrators and managers get plenty of advance warning of space and performance related problems.

DSM ensures that users stay productive, systems stay on-line at the time you want them on-line, maintenance can be planned and scheduled for times when the impact will be minimised, and your business stays operational at the most critical times.

When important systems go down, business processes also fail. A frequent consequence of this is that the impact of system downtime on the IT department may represent only a small piece of the overall shock that system downtime can have on a company's operations - Mike Karpe (NetworkWorldFusion)

Cost of Downtime



If a disk is more than 60% busy over sustained periods of time, this can also indicate overuse of that resource **–** Princeton University web site.

A large metropolitan hospital irrevocably lost their entire pharmacy data base including current patient information when a **disk crash** led them to discover that the backup tapes they had been consistently producing nightly for over two years were of the wrong files; no backups had ever been made of the lost data base. - ***InfoSecurity News Magazine***