

# Student Loans Company, LTD.

## Consolidated storage library back-up



Opening: music and graphics effects

*Ian McLaren Thomson: Press and External Affairs Executive, Student Loans Company, LTD.*  
Student Loans Company is a unique organization. It's government owned. It serves the British public. It has three and a half million people with accounts. There's a loan book: a debt amount of approaching twenty billion pounds. It's an organization that uses a lot of data. It's an organization that has to be there for people twenty-four seven. It's an organization that's very high in the public profile. We have to get things right, and we have to be seen to be getting it very right.

*Fraser Harris: Technical Support Manager, Student Loans Company, LTD.*  
Maintaining the integrity and availability of data is key to our business. We have to manage several hundreds terabytes of online storage. We actually store all of our data: development, test, production, disaster recovery, all on a consolidated and integrated SAN environment. Over the last few years we've had problems with our mechanical tape backups. The VLS looked like the ideal solution for that.

*George Brown: Senior Unix Analyst, Student Loans Company, LTD.*  
The VLS looks to every environment, just like another tape library. The advantage is it's a consolidated tape pool. It's a single management interface with multiple libraries. You can see all your libraries, all your storage, all your data, through the one interface.

*Fraser Harris*  
It's like a middle holding ground between the systems and the tapes.

*George Brown*  
Configurability was very easy. The management interface is very intuitive. Point and click.

*Allen Woods: Unix Team Leader, Student Loans Company, LTD.*  
VLS eradicated the mechanical failures that we'd seen in the previous technologies. Tape handling has reduced dramatically. And we don't use that same number of tapes that we did prior.

*George Brown*  
With our outside archiving costs, and the reduction in media that we used, we reckon within our three-year lease cycle, to have almost gained the cost of a purchase price of our VLS.

*Allen Woods*

If we hadn't implemented the VLS, it would have been chaos. With the amount of data that we have, and the growth that we have, we'd have libraries coming out our ears.

*George Brown*

We need a tape library for something that comes up very quickly, "Oh no, there's no tape library. Let's just create one in the VLS." There you go. Very fast, very efficient, very flexible.

*Allen Woods*

If I was looking for a new solution, I would advise anyone in our position, that needs a reliable and stable backup platform, to definitely look at VLS as a solution.

*Fraser Harris*

HP has risen to the challenge, not only in providing architectural and technology advice, but in working with us our support issues. And they have delivered, especially with the VLS.

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11/2005