



*"StarWind's solution is simple, scalable and reliable. I love how it works with VMware and really important for me, it's affordable".*

- David Weisbrod, Founder, Macro Systems, Inc.



#### ORGANIZATION

Macro Systems, Inc

#### WEB

<http://www.macrosysinc.com>

#### INDUSTRY

Custom Programming and Hosting for websites and applications

#### KEY CHALLENGES

Affordable, Reliable and Easy Shared Storage for VMware

#### ENVIRONMENT

VMware servers  
Web Hosting  
Application Hosting  
Custom Programming

#### SOLUTION

StarWind Enterprise Server

#### BUSINESS BENEFITS

Expanded storage  
Business Continuity

## MACRO SYSTEMS CHOOSES STARWIND FOR EXPANDABLE VMWARE SHARED STORAGE

Macro Systems, Inc. provides custom programming and web development solutions to medium and large companies in the Minneapolis\St. Paul, MN area. Founded in 1985 by David J. Weisbrod as a Lotus 1-2-3 macro programming service, Macro Systems' services now encompass a wide variety of products and services including hosting for websites and applications. Macro Systems also delivers custom training, consulting, and product integration to expanding technology markets and is well equipped to provide strength and leadership to engineer additional growth through the 21st century.

### PROBLEM

Macro Systems not only provides products and services onsite, but also hosts more than 35 customer sites and web applications. It is therefore crucial that he has safe shared storage to ensure his customer's data and business continuity and uninterrupted, 24x7 information availability. The company had been using a Linux NFS server, which did not provide a way to back up data, and migrated to two off the shelf Dell 2850 servers with Windows 2003 and a 32bit configuration. What the company really needed was a robust solution that would provide more storage and more business continuity. As a small company, it was critical that the solution they chose was affordable, and essential that the technology and performance was rock solid. Finally, it needed to support a VMware environment and be flexible enough to move to Vsphere 4 at a future date.

### SOLUTION

Macro Systems chose StarWind's Enterprise Server solution, which allowed Macro Systems to re-purpose its existing servers and turn them into networked storage while lowering their overhead. Macro Systems gained enterprise-class SAN functionality for VMware including performance, reliability, scalability and speed with near-zero downtime and seamless server upgrades and migrations. The solution allows Macro Systems to ensure continuous, mission-critical data protection between the two servers using synchronous data Mirroring, which eliminates a single point of failure and reduces downtime, and provides live Snapshots to capture a consistent state of the data stored on the SAN at any scheduled point-in-time to instantly recover and roll back data. There was no requirement to purchase any proprietary servers, storage or networking equipment. According to David Weisbrod, "The solution is simple, expandable and reliable. I love how it works with VMware and really important for me, it's affordable."

### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Micro Systems is planning on moving to Jumbo Frames and multiple NICs to improve performance in the future and will continue to protect its data with StarWind iSCSI SAN.



Turn Any Server Into a SAN.  
Enterprise Features.  
SMB Price.™

#### ABOUT STARWIND

Since 2003, StarWind has been a pioneer in the iSCSI storage industry and has been the solution of choice for thousands of global customers in over 50 countries, from SMBs, to governments, and to Fortune 1000 clients.

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