



## **TRW SIG Denver** (Aerospace Group)

**Established:** 1980's

**HQ:** Aurora, CO

**Employees:** 800

**Market:** Aerospace

**SEEK Solution:** Adaptive RAID®

## ADAPTIVE RAID® CONSOLIDATES

When Dean Parsons took over management of TRW's SUN computer running Solaris, the state of the storage situation was less than exemplary. The system had plenty of CPU power to process, and with 512MB of cache, an ample space to load programs. The storage map, however, was a different situation.

As is often the case, growth had occurred sporadically, with different needs creating different hardware configurations. After only a few years of growth, things had gotten out of hand. The concept of centralized storage was in trouble. Users were not heavily utilizing centralized storage, due to a wide variety of configuration and reliability issues. After coping with the "cheaper is better hardware" for some time, it was no wonder that storage confidence was low among users and administrators. Parsons' assessment of network storage was that things did not look good.

Parsons' *Internal Systems* group manages the storage needs for about 800 employees of TRW.

Having an internal customer base means a high access rate to your end customers because they are your fellow employees! *Seek's* Adaptive RAID® array was first brought in to handle a high load of network traffic among co-workers. It was installed on a server managing Domain Name Service (DNS) and storage/routing of local email. A growing number of users were also beginning to compile programs (C / C++) and store them on this machine. It was evident the demand on the *Seek* Adaptive RAID® array would be high.

Parsons' migration process began with four different hardware platforms, several different kinds of SCSI hard drives, and a lot of "spaghetti" cabling. The reconfiguration was a precarious process. Parsons insisted, "We can't have a lot of down time."

After reviewing products and paring the vendor list down to three, Parsons chose *Seek*, citing fast growth, fault tolerance and technical issues as key. Adaptive RAID® outperformed the competition with its strong feature set. The ability to boot from an external partition was one specific winning feature. "We do everything to safeguard our hardware...and investment(s)", he said.

Once TRW had implemented an Adaptive RAID® array, the results were obvious. "We did, of course, see a performance improvement," Parsons said, commenting on how his department benefited the most from the new high performance, easy to use, fault tolerant hardware.

Parsons also noted that many of his customers are going web based with their new projects. This will probably mean further demands and expectations of his storage array. He observed that "If the database grows, we will probably add another [Adaptive RAID® array]."

With the prospect of working on large storage projects coming up soon, down time and unreliable storage are not an option. But any IS professional would like to be in Parsons' position right now: smooth hardware operations and ability to plan for the future.

"I am really pleased with the Adaptive RAID® Array," agreed Parsons. "My boss is happy and that makes me happy!"

