

THE FOSCHINI GROUP

The Foschini Group
Cape Town, South Africa
www.foschinigroup.co.za

Industry:

Retail

Annual Revenue:

US\$900 million

Employees:

15,000

Oracle Products & Services:

Oracle Database Standard Edition
Oracle Database Enterprise Edition
Oracle Active Data Guard
Oracle Enterprise Manager
Oracle Advanced Customer Services

“Thanks to Oracle, we are saving US\$49,000 each year, and reducing backup times by five hours. We have also become much more proactive, in terms of troubleshooting. In addition, we have an Oracle Advanced Customer Services representative onsite, which gives us greater insight into Oracle’s knowledgebase.”

– Edward A. Woolls, IT Operations Manager, Foschini Group

The Foschini Group Saves \$49,000 in Annual Storage Costs and Reduces Daily Backup Times by 40%

Foschini Group consists of 14 companies trading in more than 1,400 stores across South Africa. Through its retail division, the group sells clothing, jewelry, accessories, cosmetics, sporting and outdoor apparel and equipment, and homeware. Foschini brands include Donna Claire, fashionexpress, Sportscene, Totalsports, Matrix, and @homelivingspace.

Challenges

- Reduce backup and recovery times for product, invoice, vendor, and customer data, and accelerate reporting speed
- Eliminate database downtime during backups
- Enable database administrators to reduce time spent on troubleshooting and combating recurring errors
- Decrease storage costs and optimize disk space utilization

Solution

- Implemented Oracle Recovery Manager to initiate archive log backups, as well as cumulative and differential daily backups, which reduced daily merchandising data backup times by five hours—a 40% decrease
- Accelerated critical data recovery by up to 10 hours via Oracle Active Data Guard
- Eliminated the need to perform daily full backups, saving half a terabyte of disk space and ensuring 24/7 system availability
- Reduced annual storage costs by \$49,000 by eliminating the need to store full daily backups
- Established monitoring with Oracle Enterprise Manager Grid Control, which reduced time spent on troubleshooting by 40%
- Accelerated processing times by 30% via Oracle Database—reducing product and financial reporting time from two hours to 20 minutes
- Decreased monthly and quarterly capacity reporting time from three days to one hour by creating custom capacity reports in Oracle Application Express
- Reduced errors in capacity reports by 100% by eliminating the need to manipulate data manually in Excel
- Leveraged the support from Oracle Advanced Customer Services to ensure a smooth implementation