

## SKECHERS USA



Skechers USA is one of America's most popular and rapidly growing corporations in the life-style footwear industry. Since its inception in 1992, Skechers' diverse product offering has grown from utility-styled work boots to include sport, casual, dress shoes, and its latest addition, roller skates.

### THE BUSINESS NEED

**This large and expanding operation needed a replication system that did not stop operations - they wanted a faster, cleaner, more convenient backup solution**

Like many single-processor iSeries installations (Skechers uses an iSeries Model 720 and recently upgraded to a Model 820), allotting time for a daily backup window has been a growing problem as their operation expands. The distribution center in Ontario, California, totals 1.4 million square feet. There are over 120 warehouse personnel at any one time, using terminals to communicate operations activities to the iSeries server.

Growing volumes meant that the 2002 back-to-school seasonal buying period would be pushed to a 24x7 operation. Since the current backup methods required users to log off the system every evening during incremental backups, it was becoming more difficult to locate over 120 users to have them log off the system for the backup. There were also several interfaces to sorters and automated material handling systems that could not always be interrupted. It was necessary to find a way to do the daily backups without stopping operations.

### THE DECISION

Skechers needed a faster, cleaner, and convenient backup solution. They started talking to all leading iSeries high availability software providers. It was soon apparent that to implement one of the traditional high availability solutions, they would need to change their server environment, and many of the solutions that were considered did not meet budget requirements and took too long to implement.

Skechers then discovered Maximum Availability and their \*noMAX solution. \*noMAX allows systems to be backed up daily without taking them down. The application can replicate data to a separate Auxiliary Storage Pool (ASP) for backing up. In addition, it can also be used to replicate a database from one ASP to another within the same processor. The backups are performed from that additional ASP without stopping normal production on the primary ASP. Only the apply process for the journaled changes is halted. Once the backup is complete, \*noMAX re-synchronizes the databases automatically and the apply process is turned back on.



### THE OUTCOME

Skechers installed \*noMAX on their Model 720 in June 2002.

They also increased their disk space from 180GB to 600GB to accommodate two additional ASPs and any anticipated future storage growth. No other changes were made to the system.

The new backup process at Skechers is significantly different from the older traditional backup that had been in place. Once \*noMAX was installed, Skechers were able to stop the nightly incremental backups and back up the replicated database. This allowed them to get a much cleaner and faster backup at their convenience.

Skechers' investment to achieve these results was minimal. Besides acquiring the \*noMAX software, they increased their disk space to handle the additional ASPs. They also devoted one afternoon to install the software themselves, with the help of Maximum Availability's technical support team on a 10-minute phone call. By thinking out of the box, they have managed to get out of the box they were in with a backup strategy that was beginning to seriously hamper their operations. They now have the freedom to keep their system backed up fully and still get their products to the stores in time for the new school year.

"We are experiencing phenomenal growth for the brand. Our sole purpose in life is getting shoes to our customers. \*noMAX from Maximum Availability has helped us achieve this."

**Bud Biggs**

Director Distribution Systems - Skechers USA

