

SafeTrends Vs DPNE: A quick study

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Introduction

This document discusses a brief comparative analysis between the two data protection products – SafeTrends and HP DPNE.

For this we considered:

- Installation procedure
- Ease of use
- Efficiency of Protection Agent

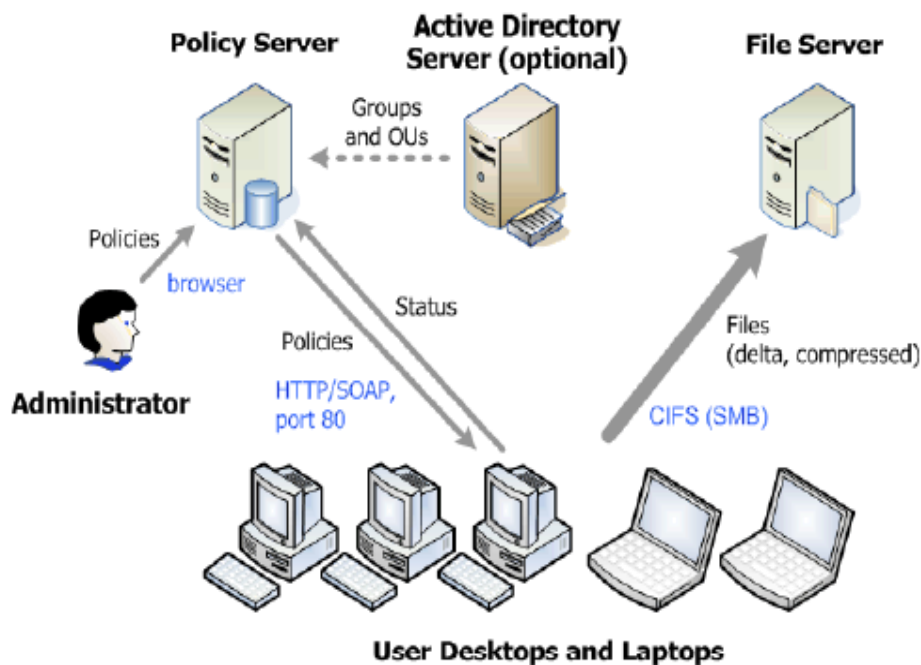
The following sections give a brief architectural description of the two products. Following that, the validation process is briefly discussed and charts are presented testifying the results.

Architectural description of HP DPNE

'Data Protector Extension for Notebooks' is a recent data protection technology introduced by HP designed to protect the vital and important corporate data residing in mobile computers.

The solution contains two major software components – The Policy Server and the Protection Agents. The Policy Server runs on a W2K3 Windows Server and requires SQL server for its backend database. The Policy server also allows integration with Active Directory Servers.

The Protection agent uses MS .Net framework and has to be installed in every computer that needs to be monitored and protected.

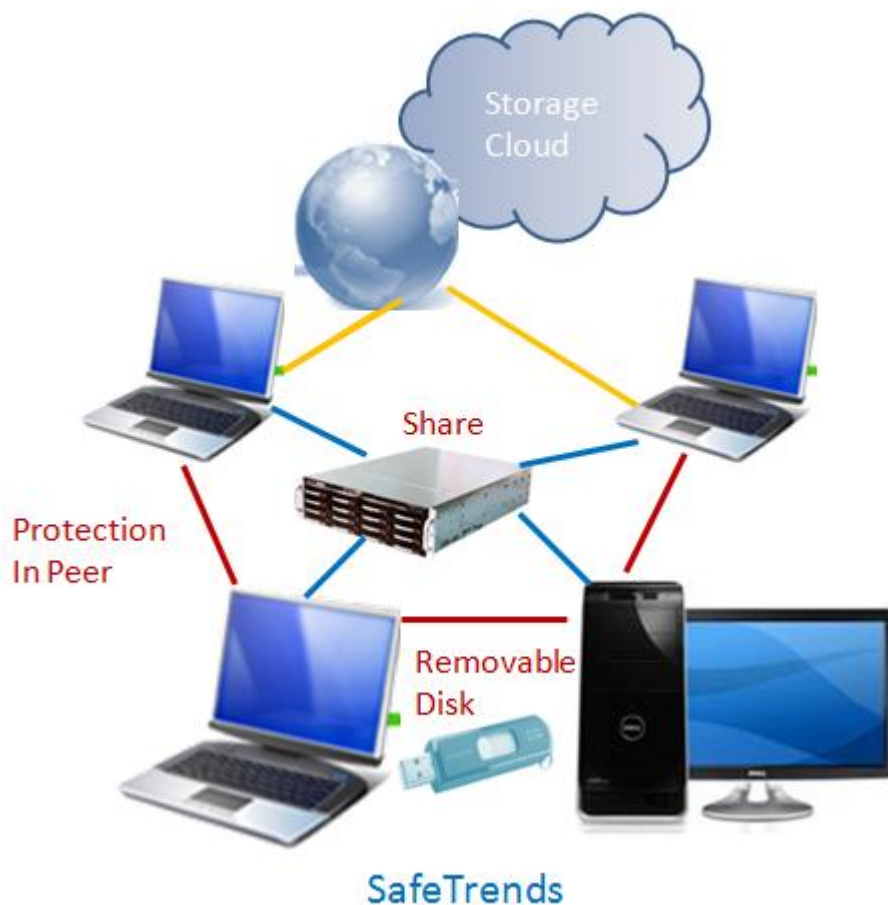


Various policies control what files are backed up from desktops and laptops and where these backups are kept. These are defined through the Policy Server Console. The policies are then distributed to the Agents, using the SOAP protocol over HTTP port 80. The Agents execute these policies. When a user changes a data file protected according to the policies, a previous version is created on the local hard disk of the desktop/laptop and changes to the file are compressed and copied to all applicable Data Vaults. DPNE utilizes data de-dupe across versions to further save space and transport bandwidth.

During file backup, the Agent notifies the Policy Server. An audit history of file changes is made inside the Policy Server. Agents also send 'health' information to the central Policy Server. Extensive reports of these can be generated using the Policy Server Console.

Architectural description of SafeTrends

SafeTrends is a data protection software introduced by AMI for mobile computers and desktops. Here the users can easily configure the protection strategies using a very intuitive Windows GUI console. Upon configuration the agent, which again uses MS .Net framework, takes control and protects the files as per the policies configured. SafeTrends may be configured to protect files on remote Shares (data vaults), Storage Clouds, Peer computers and/or removable storage devices. In addition, data may also be protected in the local disks. Various data reduction technologies are implemented here which include advanced data de-dupe and compression. Data encryption is also provided for security reasons. Note that unlike DPNE, SafeTrends uses localized policy mechanisms instead of deploying a centralized policy server.



A Quick comparative analysis

In order to perform a quick comparison between the two products, we installed W2K3 in a system that was configured to be used as the 'Data Vault' both for SafeTrends and DPNE. Additionally, the same unit was configured to work as a Protection Server and had SQL installed as per the requirements of DPNE. The client used here was a Windows XP system and had a .Net framework installed. 'Perfmon' was configured in the client to monitor a few important and relevant parameters to figure out the competitive edge of the two products.

The following parameters were monitored on the client system:

- Network Data bytes transferred during backup
- Memory footprint of the agent
- CPU utilization of the agent

The following parameter was monitored on the 'Data Vault':

- Storage space consumed with every version being protected.

For this evaluation, three sets of experiments were conducted. The first experiment was carried out with PowerPoint 2007 (.pptx) files. The next set of experiments utilized Word 93 .doc documents and finally we used Word 2007 .docx documents.

Observations:

For each of the above tests, SafeTrends came out as a clear leader and the graphs are attached below.

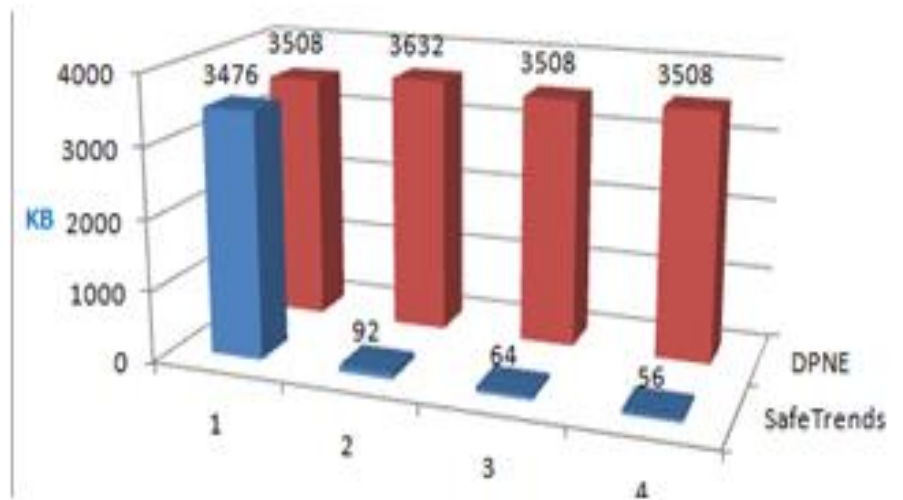
The installation of SafeTrends is also more straightforward unlike that of DPNE, which requires a long set of steps. Additionally, SafeTrends was found to be much easier to configure and work with. The GUI interface of SafeTrends also is much superior to DPNE.

Space consumption in Data Vault

The following charts demonstrate that SafeTrends utilizes very efficient de-duplication logic.

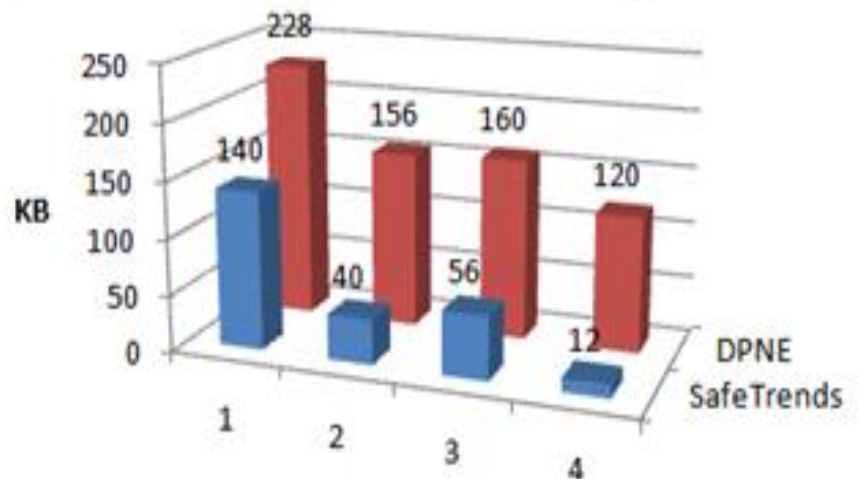
Power point .pptx file

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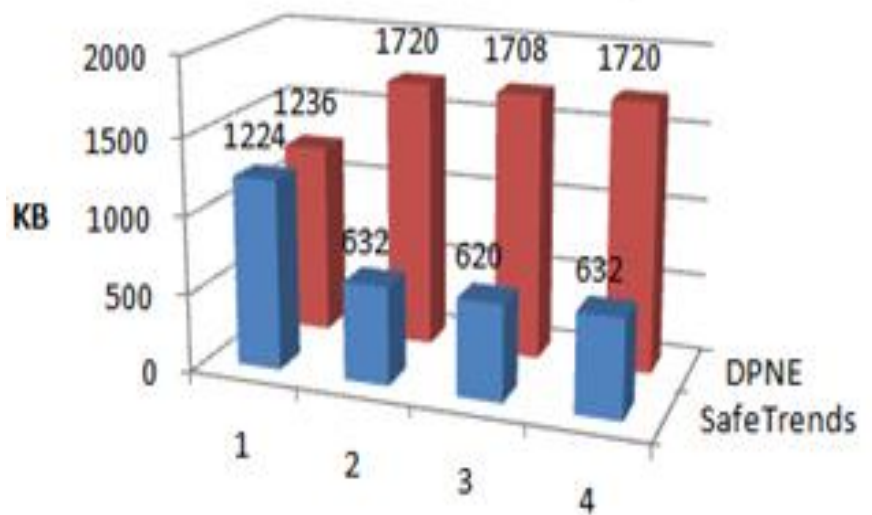
Word 97 .doc file

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Word 2007 .docx file

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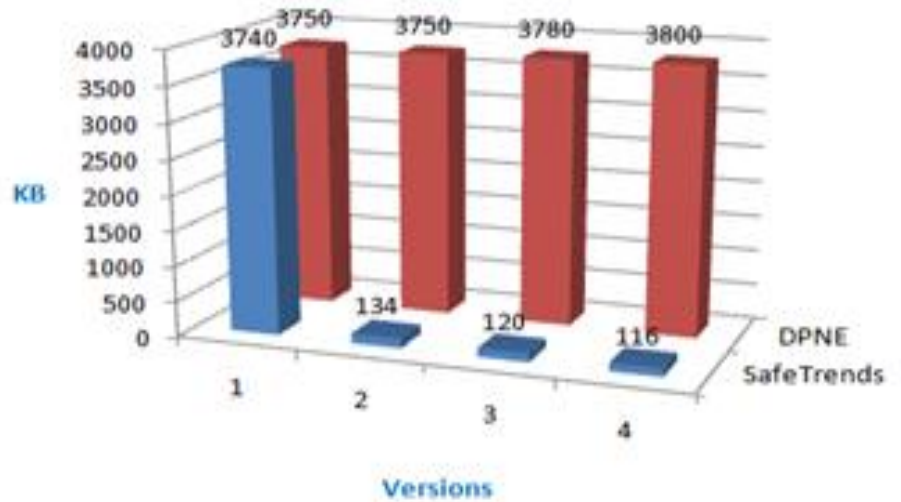


Network data transferred in KB

The following charts demonstrate that SafeTrends utilizes very efficient transport logic.

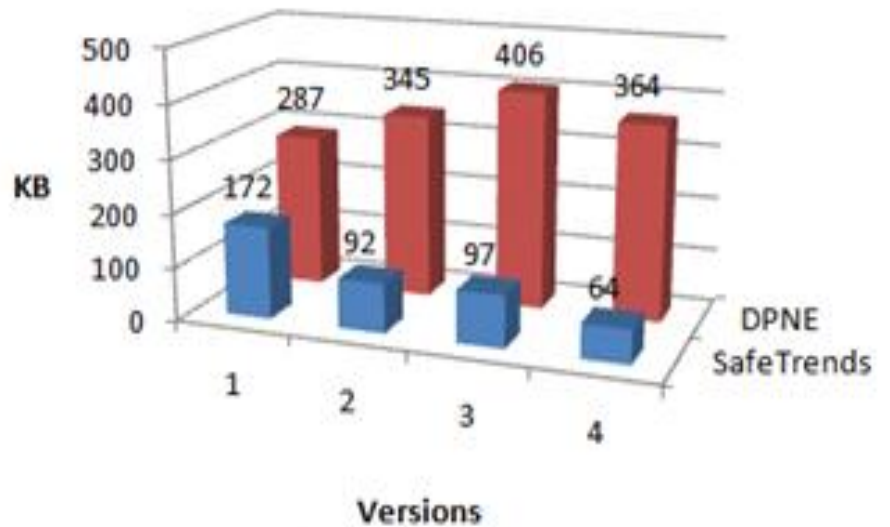
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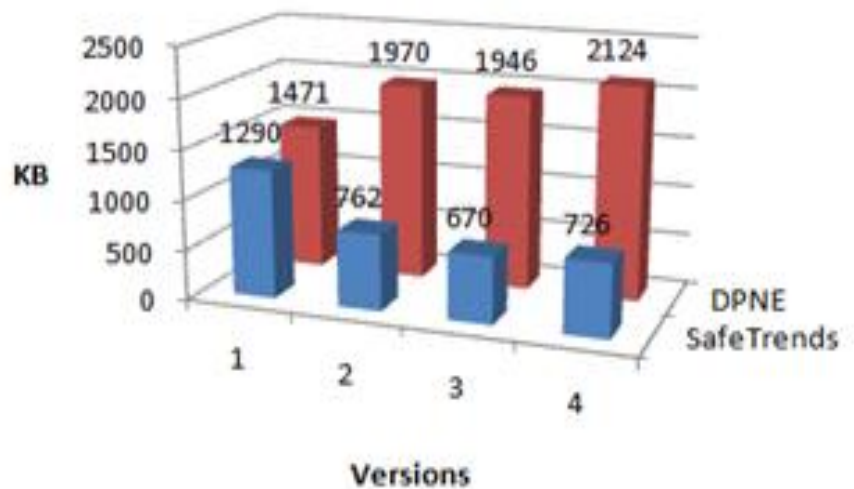
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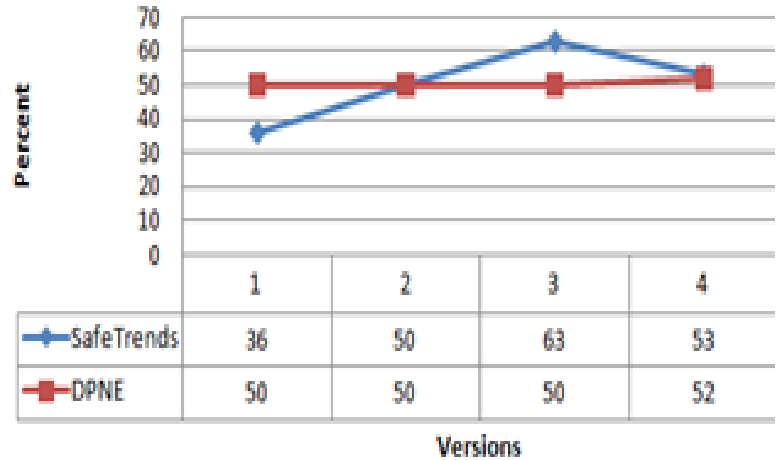


CPU utilization by Data Protection Agent

The following charts demonstrate CPU usage by the respective agents

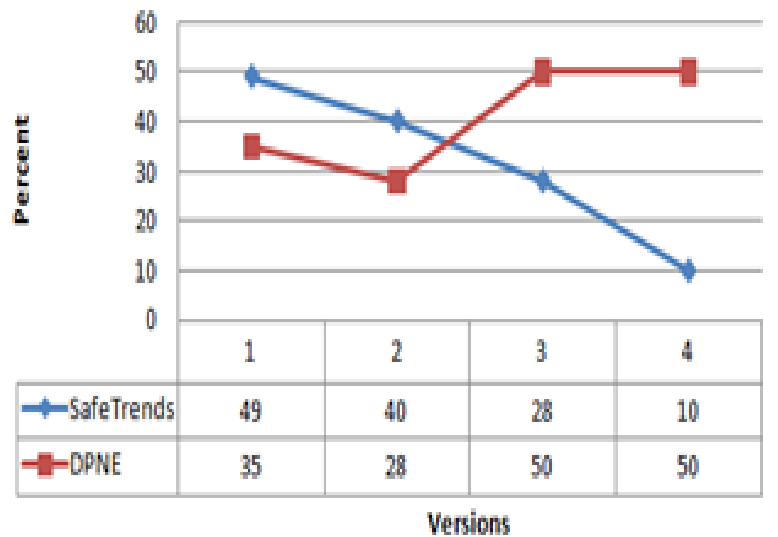
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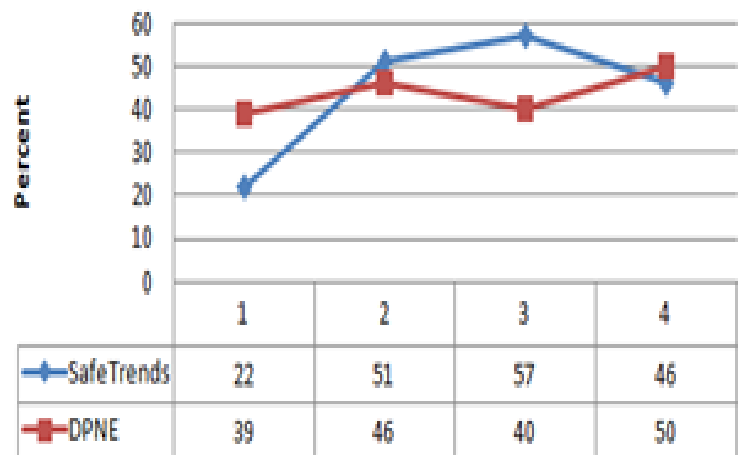
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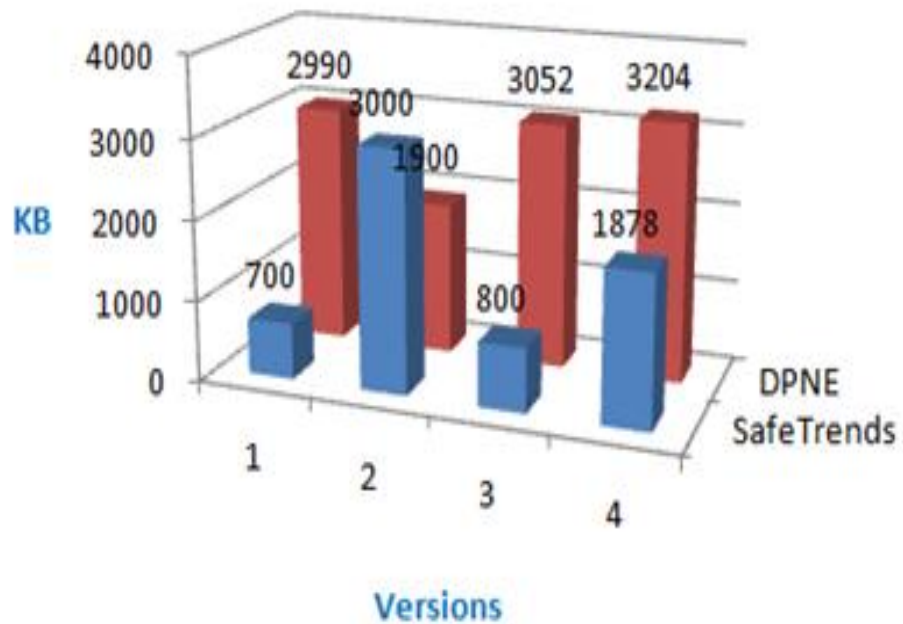
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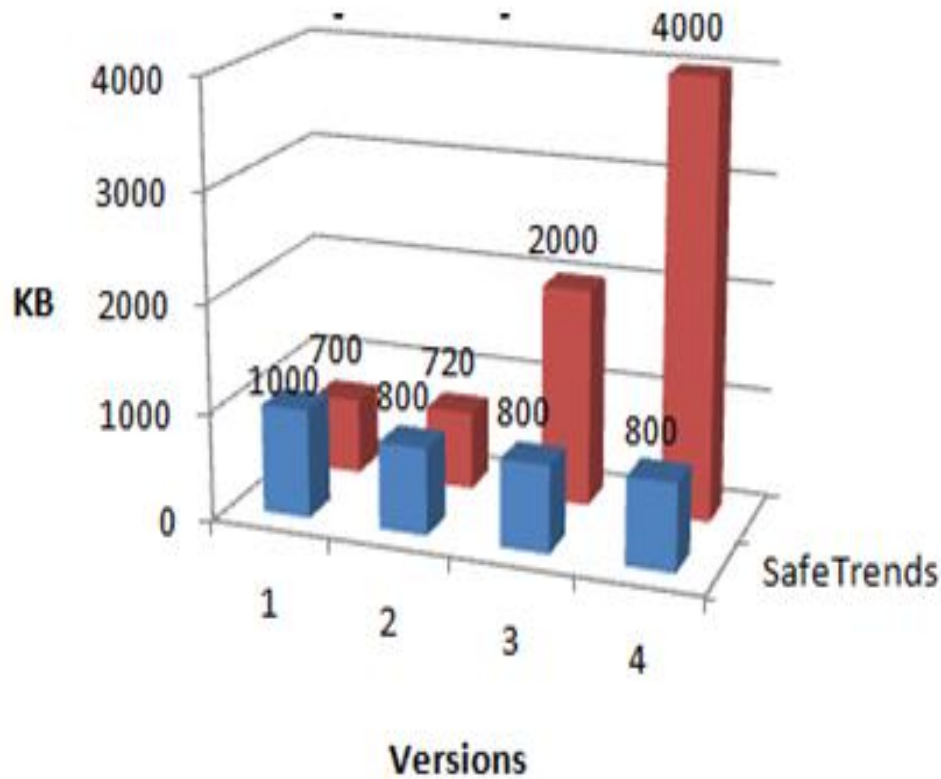
Memory footprint of Data Protection Agents

The following charts demonstrate CPU usage by the respective agents

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Word 97 .doc file
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Why AMI?

Since 1996, AMI has been a leader in the data storage industry, with the inception of the MegaRAID® RAID Controller. AMI was the largest third party RAID Controller manufacturer in 1997, and by 2001 had reached complete market share. At that time, AMI sold its MegaRAID® Division to LSI Logic in 2001. This asset sale allowed AMI to develop the StorTrends® IPStorage product family. The entirety of AMI's many years of expertise in data storage has been rolled into the StorTrends® product. AMI clearly understands the industry's needs and requirements for data storage and has used this understanding to develop a complete line of "best in class" IP-Storage products. AMI looks forward to entertaining any questions regarding the suitability of the StorTrends® IP-Storage Array for the Microsoft® Exchange environment.

AMI offers a wide array of disaster recovery and high availability solutions for your business needs. We provide services that range from storage needs analysis to the design and implementation of a custom disaster recovery solution. We can help your business plan for when things are at their worst while reducing the cost and complexity of your storage environment. For more information on AMI StorTrends solutions, visit www.StorTrends.com, email to sales@ami.com, or call (800) U.Buy.AMI.