Competitive Comparison:

SEP sesam vs. EMC Avamar

by SEP Software Corp.

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SEP sesam

SEP sesam is ideal for any mixed-IT environment. From small businesses up to major enterprises, SEP sesam supports all common operating systems, virtualization platforms, applications, databases, and storage technologies. Secure enterprise-wide backups, restores, and recoveries are extremely fast and easy to manage. A simple, straightforward GUI allows users to easily oversee thousands of systems around the world from a single management console.

SEP sesam's Multi-Streaming Technology executes simultaneous backups of an unlimited number of streams, which results in the fastest backup speeds on the market today and ensures users consistently reach theoretical maximum backup speeds. By combining SEP's newest global deduplication technology with block-level replication, enterprises are able to drastically reduce storage requirements and network loads.

SEP sesam specializes in hot backups of applications, databases, hypervisors and files in multi-OS environments. Backups, migrations, replication and automatic restores are simple, flexible and easy to manage.

SEP Easy Archive allows enterprises to create an unalterable file-locked DataStore for desired retention and legal requirements.

SEP is headquartered near Munich, Germany and in Boulder, Colorado, with satellite offices, distributors, resellers, and service partners who support SEP sesam around the globe.
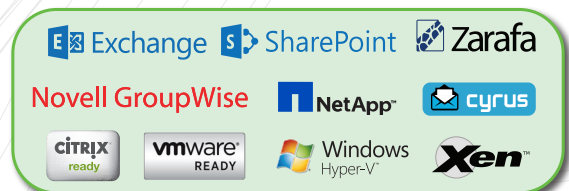
EMC Avamar

Avamar Technologies was acquired by EMC in 2006.

Avamar is essentially a combination of backup software and a deduplication backup appliance. It can be sold as a self-contained backup product or as an extension to other EMC products. On the low end, there is a pure software version available called Avamar Virtual Edition (AVE) which must be run in a VM. The full product is an appliance solution called Avamar Data Store (ADS) composed of a grid of servers with many local disks. These servers have an EMC label but are, in fact, Dell servers.

Today, Avamar is part of the broad backup portfolio of EMC and integrates more and more with EMC NetWorker and DataDomain, as many core pieces of Avamar have been adopted by NetWorker.

Since 2013, all EMC backup products have to be combined to achieve a full range of data protection. Included in this suite are NetWorker, Avamar, Data Protection Advisor (DPA), SourceOne (Archiving), MozyEnterprise (cloud backup) and Data Domain Boost.

SEP Supported Platforms

SEP sesam vs. EMC Avamar Comparison Matrix

Feature	SEP sesam	EMC Avamar
High Availability	SEP sesam can run as a cluster or in a VMware HA environment.	High Availability Solution. No single point of failure. High cost.
Pricing and Licensing	Economical pricing with flexible licensing models available according to customer needs (Classic a la carte, Capacity Based, and Subscription).	Difficult to calculate licensing model based on TB of deduplicated data. 1 TB deduplicated backup data averages $12,000 excluding any hardware. Additional costs for tape and NDMP.
Capacity	Deduplication of SEP sesam scales-out without any known limits (ex. 1 PB of raw data is about 150 TB of deduplicated data).	Restricted to 125 TB of deduplicated data with 16 nodes. The licensed capacity is not 100% usable since Avamar requires additional space for internal redundancy management (RAIN, RAID).
Disk Storage	SEP sesam can use any available disk or tape storage as a backup target. Backing up to tape can be cheaper and faster than disk in some cases.	EMC certified hardware/software solution. EMC or other existing disk storage cannot be used for backup without additional costs.
Tape Storage	SEP sesam can write to any tape device. Patented Multi-Streaming Technology can simultaneously write 64 streams of data per drive.	Tape can only be used for staging.
Deduplication	SEP sesam can save data in a deduplicated, compressed or plain format, giving the customer added flexibility.	Avamar is one of the leaders in deduplication technology, but data can only be backed up and deduplicated. No compression or standard backup is possible. Costs may increase and are dependent on deduplication factors, change rates, and data growth.
EMC Compatibility	Any EMC storage option is supported as a backup target as well as any other backup media recognized by an operating system.	Avamar has limitations with high change rates, especially with databases, and may force users to incorporate an additional Data Domain solution.
Market	Targeting heterogeneous data centers from SMB to Enterprise-class, VMware users, and remote offices, desktops and laptops.	Targeting data centers, VMware users, remote offices, desktops and laptops.
Virtual Environments	Strong integration into VMware (Instant Recovery, Single File Restore, using VSS, etc.). Basic support of Hyper-V. SEP sesam is able to back up Citrix Xen, Xen Project and KVM.	Strong VMware integration and support for Hyper-V. Citrix Xen and KVM are not supported.
Support Matrix	Extensive matrix of supported products. More versions of Linux, Unix, applications and virtual platforms.	Standard matrix of supported products.
Support	Strong customer service by technicians in their respective home countries/regions.	Developed and supported from EMC, based in the U.S.