

Simple Yet Powerful Data Protection

NON-PROFIT SUCCESS STORY:
KSBJ and NGEN Radio
Erik Sheldon, System Administrator



About Erik Sheldon

Erik Sheldon is system administrator for KSBJ and NGEN Radio, located near Houston, TX. A member of the SpiceWorks community, he participates in the Houston SpiceCorps, an affiliation that led him to discover Unitrends at the 2012 SpiceWorld Conference. Sheldon provides IT support for 70 employees, 100 computers, 25 servers, and the gamut of systems that orchestrate the two radio stations' business operations.



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Solution Highlights

Industry

- Non-Profit

Protected Platforms:

- Windows Server virtual machines

Data Protected

- MS Exchange
- SQL Server
- Files
- Applications
- Web site data

Competitors

- Symantec Backup Exec
- Mozy

Challenges

- Slow backups
- Backup errors
- Expensive tape backup solution

Solution

- Unitrends Enterprise Backup

Unitrends Benefits

- Ease of use
- Powerful and flexible strategy
- Daily reports
- Cost effectiveness
- Quality support

Customer Profile

Houston's KSBJ and NGEN stations are passionate about their faith, and about sharing that faith with everyone who tunes into their radio ministries from day to day. While KSBJ broadcasts contemporary Christian music, NGEN plays Christian hip-hop, rock, and pop. Both parent station, KSBJ, and its cutting edge progeny, NGEN, rely on public donations to continue what the duo does best—reaching out to its listeners—so neither can afford to overspend on the business operations that support them, including the systems that store their electronic records.

Among other important information, these records contain the financial data used to track annual Sharathon funds that provide the basis for the radio network's budget each fiscal year. That data must be accurate to ensure that KSBJ and NGEN retain their 501(c)3 non-profit rating.

The Challenge

With nine terabytes of data that continues to grow, KSBJ and NGEN Radio reach listeners through online, mobile, and HD radio devices. A little over a year ago, the pair of stations began to feel the pinch from a less than perfectly matched Symantec Backup Exec solution that proved, "cumbersome, expensive, and error-prone," in the words of the radio network's system administrator, Erik Sheldon.

Determined to find a suitable replacement for the woeful Symantec, Sheldon first took a look at EMC's Mozy, which offers MozyPro for business backup needs. The result: he found Mozy's automatic deployment and other features too limiting. He needed a solution that was not only powerful, but flexible enough to encompass the specific backup and recovery demands of the KSBJ/NGEN technology environment.

Benefits

Sheldon came across Unitrends at SpiceWorld 2012. He recalls, "My main focus on going to the event that year was to speak to the various backup/disaster recovery companies that partnered with SpiceWorks," and, the administrator notes of Unitrends, "they wowed me enough."

Simplicity, Thy Name is Unitrends

The KSBJ/NGEN radio network employs its Unitrends solution to protect its VM cluster. Among its many advantages, Sheldon was particularly impressed by how simple it was to set up their Unitrends Enterprise Backup software solution for their Windows Server virtual machines. "We pointed it to the cluster IP, and it found the VMs. I chose the ones to backup, set the backup preferences and away we went." For a busy systems administrator like Sheldon, the time Unitrends saves through single-pane-of-glass management and other simple-to-use features is music to his ears.

Powerfully Good

Once back at the office from SpiceWorld 2012, Sheldon shared rave reviews of Unitrends, leading KSBJ/NGEN management to request a demo. "I showed them how I could take a server offline, then restore the entire server from a backup in no time, all from one pane of glass. They were blown away, and loved how it could help us."



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"It's been six months since we rolled out Unitrends, and so far, we are very happy with our purchase!"

– Erik Sheldon,
Systems Administrator

Sheldon had no trouble demonstrating to the radio stations' decision makers that Unitrends is, "simple, yet very powerful. The ease of use is beyond compare. Then couple that with a free demo that was super easy to install and configure, and it works effortlessly—I was all in."

Positive Vibes

The Powerful, yet simple and flexible. And the buck didn't stop there. Sheldon was duly impressed by Unitrends' customer support.

"The Unitrends representatives with whom I was in touch through SpiceWorks and those whom I met in person at SpiceWorld were fantastic. Customer service helped me setup and configure the solution, always with a helpful attitude."

Heavenly Horizons

With Unitrends installed and protecting the stations' data in a way that's fairly omniscient, the satisfied systems administrator sees bright prospects for KSBJ and NGEN Radio's IT operations, as they continue to roll out their disaster recovery strategy.

"We are in the process of detailing our DR plan, and it will be effortless as well, due to the built-in processes. The speed of the software when using it, the ease of management, and the reduced time it takes to find information needed for backups/restores has made this one of my top five purchases I've ever made for my company in the almost 10 years I've been here. The daily emails I get are refreshing...everything is all 'green'."

About Unitrends

Unitrends delivers award-winning business recovery solutions for any IT environment. The company's portfolio of virtual, physical and cloud solutions provides adaptive protection for organizations globally. To address the complexities facing today's modern data center, Unitrends delivers end-to-end protection and instant recovery of all virtual and physical assets as well as automated disaster recovery testing built for virtualization. With the industry's lowest total cost of ownership, Unitrends' offerings are backed by a customer support team that consistently achieves a 98 percent satisfaction rating. Visit www.unitrends.com.

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