

Success Story: Portage Township School District



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Russ Hilton, Portage Township

Quick Facts

Industry

- Education

Protected Platforms

- Novell Netware OES
- Novell Groupwise
- Novell Suse Linux Enterprise Server
- Windows Server 2000, 2003

Competitors

- Backup Exec

Challenges

- No whole system recovery
- Tape backup systems were limited and unreliable
- Needed support for multiple systems' environment

Solution

- Recovery appliance

Benefits

- Protects heterogeneous environment using bare metal protection
- Saves District money
- Rapid, reliable recovery
- Automatic backups
- Scalable

Customer Profile

Located in Indiana, Portage Township School District strives to help each child reach his or her fullest potential while also focusing on helping the children become successful, morally upright, productive citizens. The variety of programs and opportunities available for students evidences the District's strong commitment to education. The District has gained prestige for its excellence in academics, its fine arts program and its extracurricular programs. The District aims to work closely with parents in helping each child become a strong critical thinker, which is why the District's motto is, "Together, We Succeed."

Challenges

Portage School District needed a cost-effective, whole system recovery solution for its heterogeneous environment. With an increasing reliance on its data center, the District could not rely on its existing Backup Exec system to protect its crucial student records and other important mission-critical data. The tape solution frequently crashed while performing backups, and it could only protect file- and application-level backups. If a disaster occurred, the District would lose its entire Novell and Windows platform, and it would take IT personnel days to manually restore all operating systems, application updates and drivers.

The District could not continue to risk using Backup Exec, concerned with detrimental effects if the school experienced a system failure. It was vital to find a new solution

that could grow with the District and work with its legacy system. Unitrends met the Districts' backup, restore and budget requirements. "Unitrends offered the most cost-effective, easy-to-use solution that would grow with us as our needs grew," Russ Hilton, Network Engineer of the District, said.

Benefits

Unitrends' all-in-one backup and recovery solution quickly outshined the legacy system. Impressed with the quick backup and restore speed, the District decided to switch all data protection to Unitrends. With Unitrends, the District saves money by using a single solution for its operating systems, numerous servers and other applications. "Unitrends has become a one-stop solution for all our backup and archival needs. I am looking forward to purchasing a second appliance to enhance our backup capabilities even more," Hilton said.

The District's IT personnel appreciate how easy it is to use Unitrends' integrated solution. Hilton is awed by the ability to monitor multiple data protection appliances through Unitrends' single pane of glass user interface, the Rapid Recovery Console (RRC). With the RRC, the IT team can schedule jobs and then forget about them, since they don't require human monitoring. "We can do daily backup and archive jobs on autopilot. Status reports are emailed so I always know the status of the backup process. File-level restoration is a breeze when needed. The data protection unit along with the recovery-archive appliance really make this a no-brainer when it comes to functionality," Hilton stated.

Unitrends also reliably protects the District's diverse environment through Unitrends' bare metal technology. If the District experiences a disaster, the bare metal feature drastically cuts down the backup and restore time of the network. Hilton and other IT personnel can breathe more easily knowing that if a disaster happens, the District would soon be back up and running. In just a few minutes, Hilton could start the entire network recovery process by restoring from the last bare metal snapshot.

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