

Success Story: Schoharie Central Schools



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David Holmes, Schoharie Central Schools

Quick Facts

Industry

- Education

Protected Platforms

- Novell NetWare 6.5
- Novell GroupWise 7
- Microsoft Windows 2003 and 2008

Competitors

- Barracuda
- Revinetix

Challenges

- High costs and varying monthly fees
- Need for support of a mixed environment
- Varying monthly fees

Solution

- Recovery-610

Benefits

- Ability to support and manage mixed environment in single user interface
- One-charge appliance fee
- Quick, easy, reliable data protection

Customer Profile

Schoharie is an agricultural and residential rural community located in Upstate New York. Schoharie Central Schools (SCS) enrolls 1200 students in grades K-12 and is one of 23 school districts administered by the Capital Region Board of Cooperative Education.

Challenges

SCS was facing expansion of its storage and server environment when it began to outgrow its backup solution. David Holmes, Network and Systems Technician, was in the process of migrating to an updated storage solution to address the issues SCS was having with data protection.

“We were going to end up having to either select a tape library solution - tape has always sucked - I just could not see spending the money on the number of tapes we would have needed to do the job, so I started looking at disk-to-disk solutions,” Holmes said.

Holmes first looked into Barracuda Networks. A serious drawback was the Barracuda licensing model, which involved a variable recurring monthly cost depending on the amount of data backed up. Having a low budget, this was too risky of an option. “We’re a small school district with a very minimal hardware budget,” Holmes said.

SCS also evaluated Revinetix, drawn by claims to protect

the Novell NetWare platform. However, NetWare backups omitted trustee rights, access control lists, and other necessary security attributes.

Continuing his research, Holmes found that Unitrends offered Netware support, bare metal backups and no limits pricing.

Benefits

Holmes continued investigating into Unitrends and found that it was the only disk-based solution to meet all of SCS's needs, and the best feature that ranked it above the others- "It actually works."

Unitrends offers an all-in-one solution for backup and recovery, including features of support for a mixed environment, bare metal backups for quick recoveries, archiving, vaulting and a single user-interface for managing and monitoring. "The web interface was definitely slicker than anything else we looked at... Unitrends really seems to be a step ahead on this front," Holmes remarked.

SCS selected Unitrends Recovery-610 appliance along with eSATA docking station and rotational external SATA drives, which presented an easy fix to retrieving an e-mail directory's archives.

"A couple of weeks ago, the superintendent had a problem with his email archive. Having had the experience of digging through tapes to find the archive directory, with Unitrends it was phenomenal, I was able to browse full backups month by month for four months, and in ten minutes I found the deleted archive, then in less than that the directory was fully recovered. With tape this would have taken many hours; as opposed to a few minutes with Unitrends."

Unitrends gives SCS simplicity in its data protection process that is often hard to find, offering whole system protection for a mixed environment, a simple one-charge appliance fee and ease-of-use in backup and recoveries.

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