All-In-One Backup and Data Protection for USA Volleyball

NON-PROFIT SUCCESS STORY:
USA Volleyball
Ben Pearman, IT and Network Operations Coordinator

About Ben Pearman

Ben is the IT and Network Operations Coordinator at USA Volleyball. Often found in the server room, Ben doesn't mind being behind the scenes and enjoys "making the magic happen" for his hardworking team members at USA Volleyball. The non-profit organization has been a Unitrends customer since 2013.

Solution Highlights

Industry
- Non-profit

Protected Platforms:
- Microsoft Exchange
- Windows Servers
- Linux VMs
- FreeBSD VMs
- VMware

Data Protected
- 13 TBs (19 TBs Raw)

Competitors Considered
- Dell AppAssure

Challenges:
- Heterogeneous assets
- Complex, time-consuming backup
- Lack of disk space

Solution
- Unitrends Recovery-823

Benefits
- Ease of use
- Flexible deployment
- Cost-effective solution
- Bare metal restore

Customer Profile

USA Volleyball (USAV) is the National Governing Body (NGB) for the sport of volleyball in the United States and is recognized as such by the Federation International de Volleyball (FIVB) and the United States Olympic Committee (USOC). The vision of USA Volleyball is to be acknowledged as the world leader in volleyball. USA Volleyball is committed to and works toward opportunity for all to participate. It is an advocate for all Americans, endeavoring to assure universal access to opportunities at all levels of the game.

The Challenge

Ben Pearman and his colleagues in the USAV IT department knew that their organization needed an all-in-one backup and data protection solution. "With an active infrastructure that encompassed technologies such as Microsoft Exchange, Microsoft Communications Server 2007 R2 and more, we needed to find an allinclusive
solution to back up the entire enterprise with minimal fuss and ease of use," Ben says. Ben is the IT and Network Operations Coordinator for USA Volleyball. Before Unitrends, USA Volleyball relied on costly and sporadic backup practices that Ben and his colleagues knew needed improvement. "We didn't actually have much in place—our file share was backed up "to the cloud" and incurred a significant cost to our bottom line. Other systems relied on old NAS devices to complete Windows backups and wasn't always done on a regular basis. We largely used RAID to keep us moving along (ouch!)"
USA Volleyball was looking for a modern solution to safeguard their data and heterogeneous assets. "We wanted a system that could do routine backups, including bare metal, and had its own dedicated storage system to work with," Ben says.
And the new solution needed to fit the non-profit's budget. "Disk space was already a premium on a tight budget, so having a separate, distinct backup solution that was independent of our own network storage would be a bonus. "

The #1-All-In-One Solution

The USAV IT department considered Unitrends and Dell AppAssure. But with disk space already limited, the organization couldn't justify the expense to purchase the additional storage necessary to deploy AppAssure. But the Unitrends all-in-one physical appliance allowed USA Volleyball to get the backup solution they needed with storage included—just another reason why Unitrends has the lowest total cost of ownership (TCO) in the industry. (And if you already have storage, Unitrends offers virtual appliances, too).
Ben and his colleagues worked with Unitrend's customer-obsessed support team to deploy the appliance. "We racked the system and provided the network infrastructure to get it online. Then we simply deployed the agents to our physical servers and set up the vSphere ESXi host and Unitrends took care of the rest. The software installed on the physical servers works right from the first install. Being able to see the results pretty much as soon as the system registered with the Recovery 823 unit was pretty exciting. "
USA Volleyball, now Unitrends users for eight months and counting, is protected in the event of disaster. "We use Unitrends to protect everything from end user (employee) data to athlete data, statistics, promotions—pretty much everything," Ben says.

"The ability to call up backup reports is easily one of the best I've ever used."

– Ben Pearman,
USA Volleyball

The single-pane-of-glass interface has improved the speed of daily IT operations for Ben and his colleagues. "The web interface to the appliance is useful, I really enjoy being able to see at a glance on first logging in which systems have been backed up recently, and the ability to call up backup reports is easily one of the best I've ever used. "

And when a new system comes online, Ben can quickly make sure it's protected. "As for the agent itself, it's unobtrusive, and setting up a new system to backup takes me less than 5 minutes total if I do it myself. I love that everything "just works" with Unitrends," Ben says.

Focus on Your Business, Not Your Backup

When asked about the benefits of using Unitrends, Ben had a lot to say: "Number one, and it's hard to put it into words, but every IT expert knows it's a big one—ease of mind. Knowing that I can restore a full backup of a server on the fly is a huge benefit to my job. Our primary phone system is a VoIP solution, so if something there goes down, we lose the ability to communicate with our constituents. The added benefit of Exchange recovery has also been a big help. With an IT staff of just three people, every second counts," Ben says.

Now Ben can spend fewer of those seconds worrying about backup, and focus instead on what he does best—making the IT magic happen for the USA Volleyball organization.

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Live Demo:
Watch us crash a server and recover it.
unitrends.com/demo

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