

## Success Story: Blue Ridge School District



# "Unitrends outperforms Backup Exec 100-to-1."

Mike Stewart, Blue Ridge School District

### Quick Facts

#### Industry

- Education

#### Protected Platforms

- Windows XP 2003
- Microsoft Exchange
- Microsoft SQL

#### Competitors

- Backup Exec

#### Challenges

- Unreliable backups and costly to maintain
- Too many crashes without the capability to restore

#### Solution

- Backup and recovery appliance

#### Benefits

- Ease of use and accuracy
- Rapid, reliable recovery
- Bare metal backups
- Protection of Exchange and SQL

### Customer Profile

Blue Ridge School District is located in New Milford, Pa., and offers education to students in grades K through 12. Recognized nationwide by U.S. News and World Report for its students' outstanding academic performance, Blue Ridge High ranks in the top six percent for high testing scores and college-readiness performance.

### Challenges

Like all schools with a growing dependence on its data center, Blue Ridge is no exception to the vital need for quick, reliable and inexpensive data protection. The school has mission-critical data of student information, transportation system, health records, cafeteria point of sales, network storage and more.

Blue Ridge School District's Assistant Director of Information Systems Mike Stewart experienced an array of problems while attempting to back up mission-critical data within the schools' data center using Backup Exec. The backup solution had unreliable restores of data and too many crashes without the capability to restore the bare metal. Among those problems, unsatisfying results did not measure up to the high costs.

The school district could not continue to risk using Backup Exec, concerned with detrimental effects if the school were to experience a system failure.

## Benefits

In 2009, Blue Ridge School District converted its unreliable backup solution to Unitrends' backup and recovery appliance, guaranteeing protection the school never had with Backup Exec. When Stewart began searching for a new solution, it was a fairly simple process. "No one even made it to our shortlist; once we saw Unitrends' product, we quit looking!" Stewart remarked.

Backing up a physical environment of 11 servers, including one Exchange server and four SQL databases, Blue Ridge has more than just a stable solution. Unitrends not only provides reliable backups but has a solid support staff who develop professional relationships with each client. "It's just a great product supported by great people," said Stewart. "I am amazed at the promptness and professionalism of the support staff."

Since Blue Ridge High converted to Unitrends' solution, the system has had no crashes. Stewart is impressed with the product, especially when in need of recovering files and e-mails promptly.

In one instance Stewart was migrating student storage from one server to another and unknowingly deleted 11th grade students' files. When this was brought to his attention, he was able to recover the files within minutes for the students to get back to work.

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Stewart couldn't be more pleased with Unitrends' solution, noting his satisfaction with the product. "It does it all and it does it well! There has not been one thing I wanted our system to do since we purchased it that it can't."

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