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Brian Junker
Director of Technology

Fairview School District

Situation

Fairview School District's IT Department needed to find a new backup solution that would support their NSS file systems while they migrated from NetWare to OES 11. Their current solution at that time, Backup Exec, did not support OES 11, thus beginning a search for a single backup solution that would support their entire environment.

ENVIRONMENT

The District's infrastructure is made of up a mix of physical and virtual servers. One HP VL 7 runs four virtual Linux servers at remote locations across the campus. A second HP physical server runs their GroupWise mail system. Additionally, they have a few Windows servers; an Intel server; two Dell servers that handle their virtual appliances and system controls for the campus; and one Lenovo server to support. The District currently backs up NSS volumes, GroupWise, MS SQL, Windows, Linux, virtual and physical servers utilizing a disk-to-disk-to-tape methodology with daily incrementals and full 3 TB backups on weekends.

SOLUTION

The search for a new backup solution did not take long. "SEP was one of the only, if not the only, solution that supported NSS file systems for OES 11. All of the reviews were positive and everyone just kept saying that, with SEP, the solution just works," recalled Scot Layman, Computer Technician and Webmaster for the District.

The District's transition to SEP was quick and effortless. "We were essentially starting over from scratch since the Backup Exec system was aging and we had dropped maintenance on it. However, the transition to SEP was smooth. I think we only needed to call support maybe one time, but from my perspective, it was a pretty seamless transition," said Brian Junker, the District's Director of Technology.

SEP Software

SEP Software is the premier technology leader providing high performance backup and disaster recovery solutions for professional IT infrastructures of all sizes. SEP delivers seamless solutions with one central interface to easily manage backups for heterogeneous environments.

SEP's software ensures that data security for both virtual and physical environments can be easily and cost-effectively achieved. SEP is the ultimate expression of German engineering and attention to detail. Design and programming originate from SEP offices in Weyarn, near Munich, Germany, where overall performance and reliability are of the utmost concern.

RESULTS

Since installing SEP in early 2013, the District is able to back up more data, in short windows, with no concern as to whether their continuously expanding environment will be supported. "SEP properly utilizes our autoloader and we have a more thorough and improved backup system that is much more automated than Backup Exec. All of the time spent managing [SEP] is only due to the software's increased functionality and the fact that it works so well!" said Junker.

"We have also grown quite a bit since our first implementation of Backup Exec. We have so much more data now and yet our backup windows with SEP are very fast. Depending on how much data has changed throughout the course of each day, our incremental backups complete in 20 to 30 minutes and our full backups, performed over the weekend, always complete successfully. We never have a problem," explained Layman.

"Our overall experience with SEP has been excellent. I like that the SEP GUI is easy to use and I would definitely recommend SEP to anyone seeking a backup solution," said Junker.

ABOUT FAIRVIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT

Located on the shores of Lake Erie in northwestern Pennsylvania, an 85-acre campus houses the entire District's facilities: a new, state-of-the-art elementary school (K-4), a renovated middle school (5-8), a two-story, climate-controlled high school (9-12) and a centrally located administration building. There are 110 professional full-time teachers and 89 support staff members that include: secretaries, cafeteria workers, custodians, maintenance workers and bus drivers. Current enrollment is around 1,600 students. For more information, visit http://www.fairviewschools.org

ABOUT SEP SOFTWARE

SEP Software has been delivering the widest range of backup and disaster recovery products for enterprise-level customers since 1996. With thousands of installations worldwide, SEP has developed the fastest and most reliable data backup solution available today. Its flagship product is ideal for businesses of all sizes and has proven its value to thousands of organizations across the globe. SEP has delivered unsurpassed performance to numerous industries including retail, education, health care and governments worldwide. Thousands of customers spanning six continents rely on SEP to attain their data protection strategies on a daily basis.

SEP
Backup & Disaster Recovery

USA Headquarters | www.sepusa.com | info@sepusa.com | 303.449.0100
Europe Headquarters | www.sep.de | info@sep.de | +49.8020.180.0