

Sioux Falls School District

Customer Overview

Name

Sioux Falls School District

Overview

K–12 School System

Location

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

EVault Product

EVault® Plug-n-Protect

IT Environment

- One hundred physical and virtual servers running student systems and financial, security and work order applications
- Windows and VMware
- 12TB of data backed up in two locations

School District Gains Multiple Backup Savings with EVault Plug-n-Protect

The Sioux Falls School District is South Dakota's largest K–12 district. To meet the massive data needs of its 3,000 staff members and 20,000 students, the school district maintains a multi-platform network of about 100 Windows and VMware servers. This network connects 15,000 computers, mobile devices, and intelligent whiteboards to educational and administrative applications.

The school district's IT department relied on an ARCserve tape backup solution running tape libraries at every school building. This implementation required expensive software licenses as well as 50 costly tape libraries. "Those tape libraries took a lot of hard work to manage," says David Carson, network manager, Sioux Falls School District.

Challenges: The Tale of Tape

With the ARCserve tape solution backing up a 12TB SAN, the school district had to maintain LTO-4 tape libraries at the high schools and middle schools; LTO-2 tape libraries at the elementary schools; and an LTO-3 tape library at the Central Services building.

Managing these systems consumed too much money and time. IT staff were always running around replacing tapes. This was a big deal to Carson and his staff. "If the staff member who usually changed the tapes got sick, we had to send someone else to do it, and then that staff member couldn't get his usual work done," says Carson.

The tape-based restores took too long and were also difficult to manage. IT had to find the right tape, check the tape ID, place the tape in the drive, set up the restore procedure, and then hope the tape media had not failed somewhere along the way.

"Ultimately, EVault efficiencies and its fast restores have freed up about ten IT person hours per week."

—David Carson
Network Manager
Sioux Falls School District

Case Study

Sioux Falls School District

Goals

- Rein in backup costs due to software licenses, tape libraries, and tapes
- Reduce backup windows, improve recovery times, and eliminate failure rates
- Consolidate the backup system while adding redundancy
- Cut staff's backup management time

Results

- No travel to replace or maintain tapes
- Staff regained 10 hours of time per week
- Restores are now fast and predictable

Testing the Alternatives: Server Centralization Wins the Day

What the Sioux Falls School District longed for was an affordable, centrally managed backup and recovery solution.

In the course of the school district's search, High Plains Technology, a reseller and EVault partner, recommended the EVault Plug-n-Protect all-in-one backup and recovery appliance. The school district ultimately invited three vendors, including EVault, to come on site. Each vendor set up their offerings and ran test backups and restores to highlight each system's capabilities.

One vendor wanted to put servers in every building, but the school district wanted to move away from that kind of setup. A second vendor wanted to install servers in at least some of the school buildings. "But EVault required only one server," says Carson, "and that's what we wanted. It is nice to have everything centralized."

The Sioux Falls School District soon purchased an EVault Plug-n-Protect appliance bundle, which includes EVault Software running on a Dell server with storage on a Nexsan SATABoy with 14 drive bays in a 3U rack-height space.

"Do your homework," says Carson. "Get the vendor to set it up in your environment so you can test it."

EVault Plug-n-Protect Delivers Rewards

Now instead of managing far-flung tape systems, the school district configures backups and manages restores centrally using the intuitive, web-based EVault CentralControl console.

The centralized EVault solution replaces pricey tape libraries, licenses, and tapes with an affordable, all-in-one, disk-based appliance. With EVault Plug-n-Protect, there's no more traveling from school to school to change out tape cartridges or fix or replace tape drives.

EVault Plug-n-Protect provides additional time savings by compressing recovery time. Its disk-based backup ensures restores are much faster and trouble-free.

"Ultimately, EVault efficiencies and its fast restores have freed up about ten IT person hours per week," says Carson. That time is now re-invested in core IT initiatives.

Today the Sioux Falls School District backs up to a primary EVault Plug-n-Protect appliance at its Central Services building and then replicates that data to a secondary appliance at its Instructional Planning Services building. The district stores the data on two Nexsan SATABoys with a total capacity of 12TB.

"Thanks to solid EVault compression and deduplication technologies, the SATABoys are only half full," says Carson. That will keep the district from having to upgrade for a while.

Take the next step

To learn more about EVault storage solutions, call us at 1.877.901.DATA (3282), email us at concierge@evault.com, or visit us at www.evault.com.



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