

The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles

Customer Snapshot

Name

The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles

Overview

100-year-old nonprofit dedicated to caring for Jews in need, engaging in the greater community and ensuring the Jewish future in Los Angeles, Israel and around the world.

Headquarters

Los Angeles, CA

EVault Products

Two EVault® for Microsoft System Center Data Protection Manager appliances with cloud connection

IT Environment

Multiple VMware-based virtual servers running Microsoft Exchange 2010, Microsoft SQL Server and virtual file shares.

Challenges

- Legacy backup software caused some data integrity problems

Non-Profit Cost-Effectively Ensures Backups, Replicates to the Cloud, and Speeds Restores with All-in-One EVault for DPM Appliance

The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles's quest for a more reliable, more flexible backup solution was prompted by a backup-related incompatibility that followed changes to the IT environment. These changes included virtualizing nearly all key applications with VMware; upgrading (and migrating data) to newer, now-virtual Microsoft Windows-based applications such as Microsoft Exchange 2010; upgrading to new versions of Microsoft SQL Server; and expanding the use of virtualized file shares. Through it all, system data grew exponentially.

As The Jewish Federation came to increasingly rely on its critical e-mail, accounting, and fund-raising applications, David Abowitt, Senior Systems Manager, realized the organization needed greater protection for its data and applications. He also knew the current tape backup system lacked the ability to quickly restore systems in the event of a local or regional disaster. He began searching for a backup and recovery solution that would ensure more reliable backups and faster restores; speed data recovery from a remote location; automatically replicate backup data to either a remote site or to the cloud; and integrate more closely with Microsoft applications.

Virtualization, Software Upgrades Reveal Weak Links in Backup Processes

The Jewish Federation had been using Symantec software to both back up to disk, as well as back up to an aging tape library. During its initial testing of the existing tape-based backup solution, the organization was unable to back up its Exchange 2010 environment properly. In fact, its first attempt to back up Exchange 2010 with existing backup tools corrupted the Exchange 2010 environment, necessitating a rebuild.

During the Microsoft Exchange 2010 migration project, the backup process crashed. "Disk-to-disk and backup to the cloud became our best options after our traditional backup environment proved to be inadequate," says Mr. Abowitt.

Beyond the reliability issues, Mr. Abowitt felt tape-based restores would be too slow for remote recovery after a regional disaster—and he knew it would be costly to upgrade (or replace) the organization's dual tape library to handle the next generation of faster tape formats. The Jewish Federation would also have to invest in a similar, second tape library to restore tapes from the remote site. In the short term, Mr. Abowitt hoped the

Case Study

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- Tape-based backups too unwieldy and too slow for rapid remote restores
- Lack of flexibility
- Further investment required to upgrade tape technology

Goals

- More reliable data protection and faster local and remote recovery
- Replace tape-based backups with more flexible options including replication to the cloud or to another site
- Integrate data protection more closely with Microsoft applications

Results

Fast remote restore times and greater flexibility to replicate backup data to the cloud or to a remote site.

"The whole package of disk-to-disk processes, Microsoft's Data Protection Manager, EVault Software, and the EVault cloud [in] an affordable package; that's what sold us."

—David Abowitt
Senior Systems Manager
The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles

organization could replicate backup data to—and restore data from—a second site a few miles away. Longer term, he also planned to replicate backup data to a separate facility in a different region.

EVault Appliance Comes Out on Top for Flexibility and Combination of Capabilities

The Jewish Federation evaluated disk-to-disk and cloud-based backup offerings from Symantec, Barracuda, Iron Mountain, and EVault, whose EVault for Microsoft System Center Data Protection Manager (EVault for DPM) appliance soon rose to the top. EVault for DPM features EVault Software and Microsoft Data Protection Manager 2010 factory installed on top-quality hardware. Simple to deploy and simple to use, the all-in-one cross-platform appliance provides deeply integrated Microsoft Windows server and client protection; broad non-Microsoft system protection; and secure, efficient cloud connectivity. Abowitt noted the EVault for DPM solution could integrate seamlessly with The Jewish Federation's Microsoft Exchange environment.

Competitors' offerings were crossed off the list. According to Mr. Abowitt, the current solution was tape-based, a technology he wanted to leave behind. Other vendor options could not provide the cross-site replication option that made EVault for DPM a standout. The Jewish Federation was a strong Microsoft Windows shop, but Mr. Abowitt also wanted the flexibility of bringing in non-Windows systems and knowing they would be protected as well.

In addition to providing tight integration with The Jewish Federation's growing suite of Microsoft Windows-based systems, EVault for DPM also offered more flexible backup and replication options than competitive solutions could offer. "The number one reason we chose EVault for DPM was its ability to do disk-to-disk and cross-site replication and the fact that we could continue cross-site replication once we moved to a co-location facility much farther away," says Mr. Abowitt. "The price point for cloud-based storage was also very attractive to us."

Complete Coverage, Smooth Deployment, and Near-Instant Remote Restores

The Jewish Federation deployed two EVault for DPM appliances: one at its primary site and the other at an alternate site. Implementation went smoothly, a fact Mr. Abowitt credits to the system's web-based interface and the high caliber of EVault support he has received. Now each night EVault for DPM backs up the organization's Microsoft Exchange system, SQL, and Active Directory environment—plans are underway to also protect the virtual file shares—and replicates the data to the EVault cloud, as well as to a secondary, software-based vault on the remote appliance.

Mr. Abowitt is especially pleased with the near-instant restores he can now achieve remotely. With EVault for DPM replication, he says, The Jewish Federation can restore a SQL database in less than two hours, far less than the 4-6 hours required by the organization's tape based recovery solutions.

"The whole package of disk-to-disk processes, Microsoft's Data Protection Manager, EVault Software, and the EVault cloud made the solution very attractive," says Mr. Abowitt. "EVault brought all those components into an affordable package; that's what sold us. If you want a cloud-based solution, I'd recommend it for its simplicity alone."

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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