A medium-sized biotech firm has expanded their IT infrastructure significantly over the past 5 years. The firm only has two people to manage all their IT operations and they are not Disaster Recovery specialists. More servers have been added to accommodate their researchers’ computational requirements.

The firm then implemented virtual servers to consolidate underused servers. They piloted an external cloud storage program to eventually replace some or all of their tape archive and mid-tier storage while ensuring internal checklist compliance. In each phase, a different backup and data protection software product was used creating a technology island.

The mixed solutions for Physical, Virtual and Online (Cloud) are causing a huge management problem and making it very difficult if not impossible to recover to different system hardware. The administrator doesn’t understand the procedures for managing the company’s cloud environment and is facing a migration to a new set of servers from a different provider in the near future. In addition, one of the people who managed the IT operations has resigned.
Implementation:

The Biotech company undertook the initiative to use the Acronis Backup & Recovery 11 family of products to manage their physical, virtual and cloud server resources. Acronis Backup & Recovery 11 allowed them to consolidate the management of all these resources under a single management “pane of glass” where the procedures required implementing backup and recoveries, including bare metal restore were the same, regardless of the resource type.

With this consistency, the company was able to establish a consistent set of backup and recovery “best practices” which were then applied throughout their IT infrastructure using Acronis Backup & Recovery 11’s centralized management technology. The Acronis Management Server enables management of all of the company’s backup operations for both on-premise and online cloud backup through a single management pane of glass.

Results:

With Acronis Backup & Recovery 11’s streamlined management of the Biotech company’s physical, virtual and cloud infrastructure through one management interface, the IT staff was able to successfully manage all three environments. The IT staffer was able to use Acronis Backup & Recovery 11’s new Catalog facility to generate a single pane of glass view of all of the company’s backup information, regardless of where it was retained.

The IT staffer then used Acronis Backup & Recovery 11’s simplified backup plan rules to implement common backup methods regardless of whether the backup was sent to their local datacenter disk and tape systems or to an Online archive. The elimination of the mixed software solutions to support different backup destinations, provided by Acronis Backup & Recovery 11’s common management interface for Physical, Virtual, and Cloud environments enabled the remaining IT staff member to facilitate the company’s backup requirements.

The company is now hiring a 2nd IT staff trainee as a backup. The trainee will ultimately take over responsibility for the daily backups, freeing the veteran staff members to focus on forward-looking projects. This staffing adjustment and reprioritization had been made possible because the trainee only needs to learn one backup system interface and standardized rules-driven backup procedures to operate the firm’s entire backup infrastructure.