



# Granite Ridge Builders Protect Their Data from Ransomware with Acronis

## Indiana Construction Business Avoids Catastrophic Malicious Attack with Acronis Backup Advanced and Private Cloud

### Business Summary

Granite Ridge Builders is a custom home builder serving northern Indiana. Being one of the largest home builders in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Granite Ridge Builders leads the way in building customized homes, offering its customers over 170 floor plans and the ability to customize each one to fit individual customer needs.

### Business Challenges

Granite Ridge Builders stored data in two locations but did not have a solid backup solution. This put the business at risk because CAD files and other intellectual property could be lost and this impacted worker productivity. The company understood that in today's digital world, data can be lost forever if it isn't properly protected.

### SECTOR

Construction

### KEY CHALLENGES

- Reduce downtime and risks
- Protect intellectual property
- Recover from ransomware

### KEY REQUIREMENTS

- Complete system backup
- Support of Microsoft Hyper-V®
- Ease of use
- Flexible storage support

### IT INFRASTRUCTURE

- Microsoft Hyper-V host
- Four virtual machines (Windows Server® 2008)
- 110 users
- Key applications: AutoCAD®, Intuit QuickBooks®, Microsoft Office
- Microsoft Active Directory®, DNS, DHCP servers

### KEY BENEFITS

- Complete, reliable bare-metal recovery
- Ease of protecting Hyper-V
- Automated backup onsite and offsite
- Ransomware and other malware protection

Prior to selecting Acronis, the company protected its data using built-in operating system tools and manually copying files to basic cloud storage. Manual operations meant backups weren't performed on a regular basis. And the IT team could only back up data, leaving the server environment — operating system, applications, preferences, history, etc. — unprotected.

In January 2016, the main RAID array on the company's server failed in the middle of the day. While operational data was safe, the virtual machines (VMs) were not fully backed up. As a result, it took IT a day to rebuild the server environments, leaving 110+ workers idly standing by while the machines were being recovered.

As a result of this, Granite Ridge Builders began looking for the bare-metal data protection solution that would protect all their data from natural disasters — such as fire or flood — and hardware failures. The company also required a solution that automated the back up of data residing on both on-site and off-site systems, and given the importance and volume of data residing on the VMs, the solution also had to support agentless backup of Hyper-V.

### Solution

Based on a recommendation from their preferred partner, CDW, Granite Ridge Builders selected Acronis Backup Advanced. Their IT team installed the software on a Microsoft Hyper-V and backed up the VMs using agentless backup technology.

Due to volume of CAD data — over 4TB — the company decided to store their data on Network Attached Storage (NAS) because backing up that volume to cloud storage would be time consuming. Acronis Backup Advanced automatically backs up and stores the data at their primary site and with Acronis' backup replication

feature, the data is also automatically replicated — at no additional cost — to their secondary site using their existing fiber and site-to-site VPN structure.

After the initial full backups are completed, the company runs incremental backups to the remote site, which take approximately four hours to complete.

Earlier this year, Acronis Backup Advanced protected the company's data from a potentially devastating malware attack. In August 2016, the company fell victim to SMRSS32 ransomware, which encrypts a server's hard drive and solicits the users to make an online payment in return for a decryption key. The attack specifically targeted the company's accounting file server, and the company faced the prospect of paying a hefty ransom or losing 17 years of accounting data. Instead of paying the ransom, the company's IT team erased the infected machine and created a fresh copy from a backup. In less than one day, the accounting team was back in business. No data was lost and no ransom was paid.

**Justin Jones, IT Manager at Granite Ridge Builder explains,** *"The tight integration with Hyper-V makes Acronis Backup Advanced the best choice for easy and quick back up of virtual machines. Installation and configuration is easy. We simply referred to the included Help Document and with Acronis' live chat support, we were able to configure the backup tasks and complete the first few backups in no time."*

**With regards to the ransomware attack, Jones went on to comment,** *"Most importantly, I know backups are always running and our systems are always protected. When the ransomware attacked our server, I viewed it more as an inconvenience rather than a catastrophic business event because I knew all of our data was protected."*

# Acronis

### About Acronis

Acronis sets the standard for new generation data protection through its backup, disaster recovery, and secure access solutions. Powered by the AnyData Engine and set apart by its image technology, Acronis delivers easy, complete, and safe backups of all files, applications, and OS across any environment — virtual, physical, cloud, and mobile.

Founded in 2003, Acronis protects the data of over 5 million consumers and 500,000 businesses in over 145 countries. With its more than 100 patents, Acronis' products were named best product of the year by Network Computing, TechTarget, and IT Professional and cover a range of features, including migration, cloning, and replication.

For additional information, please visit [www.acronis.com](http://www.acronis.com)

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