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Acronis True Image Success Story – Brown University, Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies (CAAS)

Industry
– Education

Key Challenges
– Improve disaster recovery according to the following measures Total Cost of Ownership (TCO), Return on Investment (ROI), and Efficiency of Restoration (EOR)

Environment
– 5 Windows servers running a variety of applications; print and file sharing, Domain Naming System (DNS), and Windows Internet Naming Service (WINS) applications

Solution
– Acronis True Image Server for Windows
– Acronis True Image Corporate Workstation
– Acronis True Image Home

Business Benefits
– Increased efficiency of restore; restore a complete server in ten minutes as opposed to three days and files in thirty seconds instead of five minutes
– Immediate return on investment
– Decreased total cost of ownership

Overview

Founded as Rhode Island College in 1764 and renamed Brown for benefactor Nicholas Brown in 1804, Brown University is one of the oldest universities in the United States. The school's mission is to serve the community, the nation, and the world by educating and preparing students to "discharge the offices of life with usefulness and reputation," through a partnership of students and teachers in a unified community known as a university–college. About 7,800 undergraduate, graduate, and medical students attend the university and are taught by over 600 faculty members. An endowment of about $1.6 billion supports academic programs in fields as diverse as anthropology, biology, history, linguistics, physics, religious studies, and urban studies.

Key Challenges

CAAS sought a disaster recovery solution that met the following parameters: lower total cost of ownership, quick return on investment, and improved efficiency of restoration. Because of this criterion, the department began evaluating disk imaging solutions to replace the cumbersome tape–based solution used at the time. The tape based solution was becoming too costly to support, in addition to the fact that restoring an entire system could take days.

Project Background and Product Evaluation

CAAS first evaluated another disk imaging solution, but eventually selected to pilot Acronis True Image after four months of having issues with this initial pilot. Acronis True Image Server was installed on a system in the department, and after twenty minutes the application had successfully been installed and an image created.

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Unexpectedly Positive Results

CAAS has implemented Acronis True Image Server for Windows, Acronis True Image Corporate Workstation, and Acronis True Image Home. Currently, the application is installed on five servers used for various tasks; file and print servers, DNS servers, and WINS servers. The software yielded unexpectedly positive results; the application worked as advertised in twenty minutes, after a failed four month evaluation of a competitor's product, for an immediate return on investment. Moreover, Acronis True Image resulted in immediate savings as the total cost of ownership for the product was less than the previous tape based backup product that was becoming too expensive to maintain. Finally, the efficiency of restoration was dramatically improved; restoring individual files now takes thirty seconds as opposed to five minutes per file and restoring a complete server takes ten minutes instead of three days.

> I would have to say that all three of our business factors were accomplished and our implementation of Acronis True Image has been a great success. However, one factor that is important to all administrators is the "Peace of Mind" factor and Acronis True Image has provided to date the greatest peace of mind I have ever experienced.
>
> Rick Smith
> Network Manager
> Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies (CAAS)
> Brown University

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