



Wolverhampton City Primary Care Trust Revamps its Data Protection Strategy With BakBone NetVault: Backup

UK National Health Service improving data back-up and retrieval at an affordable cost

Customer:

Wolverhampton City Primary Care Trust

Industry:

National Health Service

Challenges:

Improving data back-up and retrieval at an affordable cost.

Solution:

NetVault: Backup

OS Environment:

Windows

Benefits:

Central infrastructure management and back-up admin time reduced by more than 90 per cent.

“Backups now comfortably fit into the overnight interval and the team has copious amounts of spare capacity to accommodate future growth.”

Chris Ross

*Vice President of EMEA
BakBone Software*

The Organisation

Wolverhampton City Primary Care Trust is a statutory organisation, created in April 2002. It provides community health and mental health services and manages primary care services for the population of Wolverhampton. To do so, it directly employs approximately 2,000 people and relies on over 2,000 computers linked to more than 75 servers located across two sites.

The Challenge

Toward the end of 2007, the Trust decided to update its data protection strategy to free up time in the IT department’s schedule and thus increase productivity. The team wanted to grow tape capacity, improve the backup interval and make the hardware more reliable. The team also wanted to centralise the entire infrastructure management and move to a more effective disk-to-disk-to-tape (D2D2T) model.

After lengthy internal discussions, the department decided to source a new solution that would offer uncompromising efficiency, reliability, fast data recovery times and ease of use.

The Solution

Today, the Wolverhampton City Primary Care Trust’s data storage infrastructure features a D2D2T setup and is split across two sites. The primary one includes Fibre Channel and iSCSI storage area networks (SANs) for file, print, exchange, SQL and other core services load balanced across Fibre Channel and iSCSI arrays, while the secondary site features two iSCSI arrays and an LTO 3-tape library.

A single backup server is attached to an array and a tape loader, while a second smart client server at the second site is attached to another array. BakBone NetVault: Backup is deployed on all the servers, which backup to their local array.

The Benefits

The main benefit of this installation of NetVault: Backup is that it allows the Trust’s IT department to manage the entire infrastructure from a single point while protecting 3.5 TB of data.

Having come recommended from third parties, the Trust found the BakBone software to be very user-friendly and reliable. In addition, the virtual tape drive facility has had a tremendous impact on the duration of the backup process because it allows the PCT to run many backups concurrently.

Thus, thanks to BakBone, the Wolverhampton City Primary Care Trust enjoys a much more efficient data protection strategy where the team only needs to swap tapes in a single location and very rarely needs to retrieve data from these,

reducing the back-up admin time by more than 90 per cent and significantly increasing productivity. Backups now comfortably fit into the overnight interval and the team has copious amounts of spare capacity to accommodate future growth. “Because of the lack of existing capacity and the significant issues we had with the backup hardware, we got to the stage where we needed a new solution and fast. Time was a luxury we definitely did not have.” Tracey Kenny.



“We decided we would not compromise on reliability, technical support, and ease of use. We also wanted a product that would not be ineffective after 12 months so scalability and general future proofing were critical.”

Tracey Kenny

*IT Manager at Wolverhampton City
Primary Care Trust*