Case Study

Top London 6ᵗʰ Form College Upgrades Backup and Recovery Systems to CommVault® Simpana

Deliverables

- Fixed Price, de-risked CommVault® Simpana implementation

- 2 day installation with remote training

- Deduplication of existing backups, 1/5th of space

- System scaled for growth for the next 5 years

- Lower staff overhead

- Annual cost savings on renewal contracts

- Delivered on time and on budget

Industry: Education

Annual Budget 2014: £9 million

Employees: 200

Students: 1500

Data Size: 8–10TB

Environment: VMware, SQL, Exchange, Oracle, Nimble Storage

Solution: CommVault® Simpana

St Francis Xavier Sixth Form College (SFX) is approximately a £9 million government funded 6th Form College based in Balham, South London. SFX are top of the DFE league table for inner and South London Colleges (DFE January 2014) and offer over 50 courses including; Level 3: AS and A levels, BTEC Diplomas and Extended Diplomas. Over 85% of students go to university each year with around 15% to the 1994 and Russell Group Universities. Saint Francis Xavier has a team of four IT staff with one onsite server room.

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> The solution set not only met our expectations but has exceeded it. Since the installation of CommVault's Solution Set, I have the peace of mind of knowing the infrastructure and its data is constantly backed up and protected. This has saved the IT department a huge amount of time to focus on other tasks rather than troubleshooting backup errors. "
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> **Thufael Islam**, Director of IS & Network, SFX

The Customer

Funded by the local government, St Francis Xavier Sixth Form College (SFX) has experienced significant funding cuts over the last few years. This has led to a strategic review on spend in all areas and a need to cut costs where possible. The IT Team also had serious concerns with their existing backup solution, as they have experienced a number of backup failures which resulted in corrupted data and many hours lost in recovery and restores.

The Challenge

Thufael Islam, Director of IS & Network for SFX conducted a strategic review of the internal IT infrastructure which highlighted the need to improve their systems and applications, improve their backup and disaster recovery, RTO and uptime.

SFX has over 45 virtual machines across an ESXi Cluster running a standard infrastructure setup including a combination of SQL servers, Web servers and Microsoft Exchange, MIS & Finance systems, including several additional physical servers. The MIS system based on Oracle holds all student and staff records. SFX holds a total data size of approximately 8TB – 10TB

The Solution

Whilst conducting an online search for backup solutions, Thufael came across several potential solutions including Symantec Backup Exec V-Ray and Veeam. Through some detailed analysis and testing, Thufael concluded neither solution fit the requirements for SFX in terms of encryption times, data duplication and performance.

Thufael then came across CD-DataHouse and made an enquiry regarding CommVault® Simpana. During discussions with CD-DataHouse, Thufael was made aware of CommVaults new Solution Sets, in particular Simpana for VM Backup, Recovery and Cloud Management. New license agreements are more agile and cost-effective through VM provisioning, management and recovery tools with lower yearly renewal fees and lower installation costs. A solution that was previously cost prohibitive was now within their budget.

CD-DataHouse architected and designed the solution and provided a fixed price, de-risked implementation. The implementation occurred over two days and remote training and support was delivered to the SFX IT team post implementation.

> " As a bonus it has provided us with free space for the growing data generated by more than 1700+ people relying on the IT system. Colleges not only have to protect their data but also be able to restore fast in the event of data loss or corruption, which is exactly what this solution does. "
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> **Thufael Islam**, Director of IS & Network, SFX

The Outcome

The new solution now delivers significant benefits to SFX including:

- 100% confidence in backup and recovery, full VM restores reduced to under one hour.
- Significant reduction of backup time for encrypted and deduplicated data.
- Increased tape efficiency and reduced cost.
- Increased functionality to backup virtual images, with ability to restore files individually.
- Annual savings on renewal fees with the new CommVault® solution set

Two months on post implementation, SFX are continuing to benefit with their enterprise based backup solution in their daily activities. It exceeds all their expectations, delivers as they expect it to and has greatly improved their confidence in the backup and retrieval of their data.