

The Air Zoo Flies Away from Tape Backup

Entertainment Success Story | The Air Zoo



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Solution Highlights

Industry | Entertainment

Protected Platforms

- Virtualized Windows servers
- Windows applications on VMware

Solution

- Unitrends Recovery 710

Benefits

- Rapid restores
- Meeting backup windows
- Peace of mind

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This is the best backup experience I've ever had. It just works.

Al Hollaway
Information Executive
The Air Zoo

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Customer Profile

The Air Zoo, located in Portage, Michigan, is an aviation museum with a highly-charged, multi-sensory atmosphere that features many amusement park-style rides, full-motion flight simulators, 4-D Missions Theater, Magic Planet, Space Ball and a Zero Gravity Experience, as well as historical exhibits and educational activities. Founded in 1977, the Air Zoo's mission is to preserve the legacy of flight for present and future generations. Offering birthday parties, summer camps, overnight camps, Scouting info, Super Science Saturdays and home school programs, the interactive museum has been voted the "Best Place to Take Out-of-Towners" and the "Best Place to Spend a Day with Your Family."

The Challenge

The Air Zoo had all it could take with old tape backup solutions. With a need for protecting a larger and growing database of software from accounting records, ticketing and retail systems and its artifact database, tape systems were continuously failing to meet the company's standards. Not only did The Air Zoo's tape backups lack data storage space to protect the required software, but the tapes were also inefficient and constantly failing. Al Hollaway, The Air Zoo Information Executive, was looking for a new solution that encompassed all of the company's needs from quick recovery to more storage space to protection of VMware virtualized environments.

The Solution

The Air Zoo decided to tackle its backup problems by switching to a Unitrends Recovery 710 hardware appliance. The Recovery series of hardware appliances provides Air Zoo with best-in-class price/performance and total cost of ownership for on- and off-premises business continuity and disaster recovery. Hollaway looked into competitors such as Sun and HP, but Unitrends won him over with its "ease of deployment, easy-to-use software and outstanding on-site installation support."

The Results

"Once everything was set up, the backups just happened by themselves," Hollaway said. "It was amazing how much relief I experienced." Hollaway also found Unitrends' software went beyond just giving him security that his systems are protected. "I have been pleased with the ability to recover individual files quickly and easily, which was something that was difficult with the old tape system," he said. "Unitrends' system is so far advanced over the old tapes that we are now far more secure."