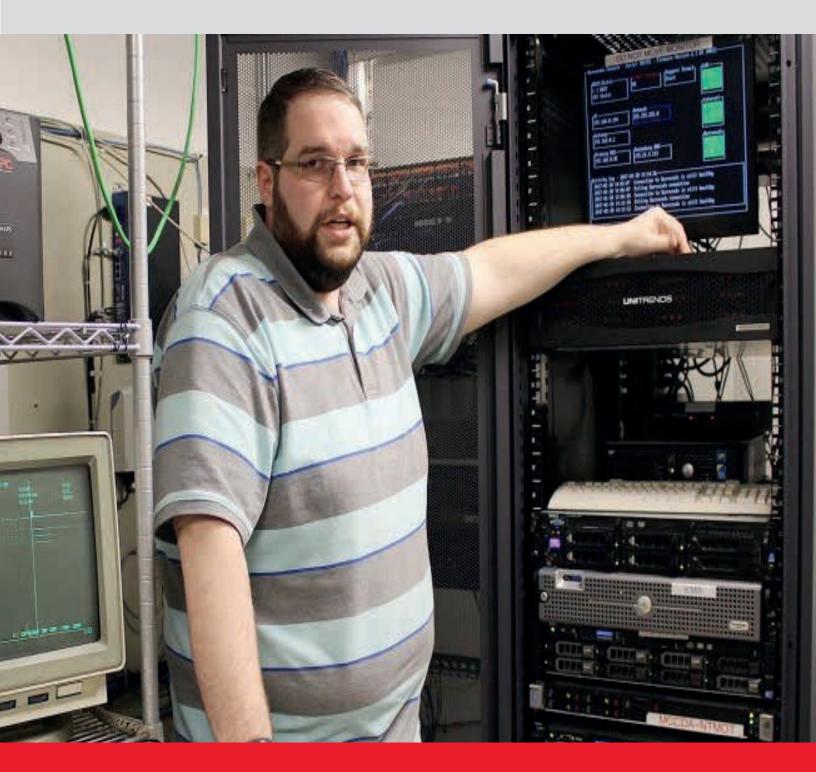# Backing Up an Army of One

Government Success Story | County of Montcalm, Michigan

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Solution Highlights

Industry | County Government

Protected Platforms:
- Physical Windows Servers
- Physical Linux Servers
- Virtualized Windows Servers
- AS/400 Servers

Solution
- Unitrends Recovery 933S

Benefits
- Ransomware Protection
- Protection against accidental deletes
- Full disaster recovery capabilities

"

I'm a one man band, so staffing and budget are a challenge.

Eric McLaughlin
IT Director
County of Montcalm, MI

"

Customer Profile

Montcalm County is located in the center of the lower Michigan. As of the 2010 census, the population was 63,342 with the county seat in Stanton. The county is named for General Marquis Louis-Joseph de Montcalm, French military commander of troops in Canada during the French and Indian War. Eric McLaughlin is the IT Director and the only member of the county's IT department. "I'm a one man band, so staffing and budget are a challenge."

The Challenge

McLaughlin manages 35 servers in multiple county departments, including the building department, Commission on Aging, controller-administrator, courts, drain commissioner, emergency services, equalization, maintenance, Michigan State University Extension, prosecutor, register of deeds, sheriff, treasurer and more. The county was using a Barracuda tape backup system. The system was up for a contract renewal and the renewal cost was close to the cost of replacing the units with a new and better system. The Barracuda system could only house 12 terabytes of data between two units and was constantly running out of space.

The Solution

McLaughlin followed the strong recommendation of their technology partner MNJ Technologies. The Unitrends Recovery Series 933S hardware appliance has a physical data storage size of 37 terabytes — with compression storing up to 22 terabytes — and can retain the data for up to one year. "It was the best quality product." explained McLaughlin. "In addition, the ability to spin up a VM from a backup when the server goes down has become priceless. Obviously in this day and age, backups are crucial," McLaughlin said. "Data can be lost or corrupted. A good and steady backup can save you from massive data and time loss, saving the county a lot of money in having to recreate the data that was lost from having to pay employees to redo their work."

The Results

McLaughlin recounted a story of how Unitrends saved the day! "Just after installation we had a critical hardware failure and lost a full server. This happened three months before the new budget year. I was able to spin up a backup on the appliance and only lost about two hours of work. We kept the application running on the appliance and were able to get that through until the next budget, setup a VM on a new Hyper-V Manager, and migrate the data from the appliance to the new home and no users were the wiser. This really saved the day and a lot of money!"

"The Unitrends Recovery Series 933S appliance is fast, and reliable and I feel secure in knowing I have one of the best backup solutions around!"

Are You Ready to Get Protected?
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