

Enterprise-class Data Protection at School District Budgets

Education Success Story | Griffin-Spalding County Schools



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Solution Highlights

Industry | K12 Education

Protected Platforms:

- Virtualized Windows Servers
- Physical Windows Servers

Solution

- Unitrends Recovery 822 & 713
- Data Encryption

Benefits

- Datacenter protection
- Data encryption
- Flexible - easy upgrades



Customer Support identified the source of the problem and provided immediate resolution. They also provided input to prevent the issue from reoccurring. Customer service of this caliber is hard to find.

Rod Smith
Director of Technology
Griffin-Spalding County School System
Griffin, GA



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Customer Profile

Griffin-Spalding County School System, located south of Atlanta, Ga., is a public school system with 21 K through 12 schools and roughly 11,000 students and 850 teachers. Before using Unitrends, the school system used an unreliable tape-based backup solution that was difficult for the employees to use. For a school system that has nine Georgia Title I Distinguished School awards, it was necessary for the district to improve its backup solution.

The Challenge

After Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, Griffin-Spalding County IT Director Rod Smith realized that his school system's network was easily susceptible to permanent damage. He realized that if the district did not invest in a reliable backup and disaster recovery solution, the schools would be at high risk for never fully recovering their data infrastructure. He needed an all-in-one backup solution that could protect the current 37 servers and 1.2TB of data in addition to a solution that could support the growing data center. "We didn't have the funds to do the same level of backup as a large enterprise corporation," Smith said. "But we had heard some positive things about bare metal recovery of entire servers, and we realized that Unitrends was a possible fit."

The Solution

After researching expensive backup providers that did not fit in with the district's small budget, Smith turned to Unitrends Recovery Series appliances. Unitrends' bare metal recovery significantly shortens the backup and restore window for quick and reliable data protection. Since installation, the bare metal feature has been a reliable solution for quick restores of lost data. In addition, Smith has the ability to easily upgrade new server equipment without taking the network offline.

The Results

Today, the Unitrends' appliances allow the school system to better protect student information and education applications with Unitrends all-in-one solution for quick backups, on-and-off site vaulting capabilities and bare metal recoveries. Unitrends' solutions also make it easy for the school system to adhere to federal regulations, such as HIPAA, by offering encryption capabilities for selected, sensitive data that has to be vaulted off-site. "I needed to replace a server with a unit that was still being put together," Smith said. "So I found an identical server and upgraded it offline—it had the same memory and storage. Then we did a bare metal recovery to that server. We've done that at least twice in the span of a couple of weeks. And, it was fun, easy and fast."