



Happy and Successful Repeat Customer

Education Success Story | Lamar, MS County Schools



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Solution Highlights

Industry | Education

Protected Platforms

- 20 virtual servers on VMware
- 5 Physical servers running Windows

Solution

- 2 x Unitrends Recovery 814S'

Benefits

- Rapid restores of both physical and virtualized servers
- Data protection
- Peace of mind



I had purchased Unitrends in a previous job to Lamar County and the system and customer support proved itself. Unitrend's ease of use, reliability and low cost of ownership makes it the perfect solution for K12.

Ross Randall
Director of IT
Lamar County Schools, MS



Customer Profile

Lamar County, Mississippi is located in the southern part of the state on the boarder with Louisiana. In 2010 the population was 55,658, growing about 46% since 2000, making it one of the fastest growing counties in the state. The county seat is Purvis but Hattiesburg is the largest city in the county.

The Challenge

Ross Randal is the Director of Technology for the entire K-12 county school district. He has a staff of 19 serving 18 school campuses and district operations. With a mix of both virtualized and physical servers, Randall's main concern is data protection. "Data security and compliance are always major concerns for K12 but loss of data can be catastrophic. Keeping student and employee data safe, secure and backed up are key to the success of our data center plan. We were using several manual methods including direct backup to disk. This was very ineffective and unreliable. I started looking for a new solution to ensure the quality of the backups as well as a way to speed up restoration."

The Solution

Randall had worked with Unitrends at a different county school department, one of three that he has worked for over the last 11 years. "For Lamar County, one of the main factors in selecting Unitrends was my prior experience with their products. I had placed Unitrends in my district previous to Lamar County and the system and customer support proved itself. Unitrend's ease of use, reliability and low cost of ownership makes it the perfect solution for K12. We now have dual Unitrends Recovery 814S appliances. One sits in the data center as the primary and the other is secured in a school site about 30 miles north. The secondary syncs with the primary to ensure a redundant backup solution."

The Results

Randall discussed his experience with Unitrends. "Very soon after putting Unitrends online we had an issue with our primary domain controller that was not easily fixed. We were able to restore the backup in a matter of minutes and saw very minimal down time or issue. Without Unitrends we would have been down several hours at a minimum."

Randall continues, "Few industries match K12 education's massive amounts of data and users accessing the data. When access to that data fails, I fail. Unitrends gives me the peace of mind to know I can recover and keep running even when my servers decide not to."