



Replacing Tape for Enhanced Data Protection

Government Success Story | McLean County, Illinois

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Solution Highlights

Industry | County Government

Protected Platforms:

- Virtualized Windows Servers
- Physical Windows Servers

Solution

- Unitrends Recovery 713S

Benefits

- Ransomware Protection
- Protection against accidental deletes
- Disaster recovery capabilities



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Craig Nelson
IT Director
McLean County, Illinois



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Customer Profile

McLean County is located in Central Illinois. It supports all county-related offices, such as the Sheriff's office, courthouse, nursing home and public facilities. McLean County's office handles all of the information from government elections, birth records and court systems to public recreation, safety and real estate, making data protection and recovery a critical part of the county IT department's responsibilities.

The Challenge

McLean County was previously using Veritas Backup Exec for backup and recovery. Slow backups, reliability, and high costs were preventing the county from having a secure IT infrastructure. Backup Exec's unreliable and slow performance was reducing productivity for not only the county government's IT department, but also affecting the daily operations in several of the county's offices. "Our County had been facing increasingly long backup windows, as our Friday night full backup processes were beginning to extend into Monday mornings. System performance for our 24x7 operations (jail, 911 and remotely connected partners) had been lackluster during these backup times, adding to user frustration," Craig Nelson, Director of Information Technologies, McLean County said.

The Solution

When McLean County began utilizing Unitrends, its backups and restores started performing in a fraction of the time it took for Backup Exec. "We compared several different vendors and we chose Unitrends based on their ability to back up directly to disk, the compression that was possible and the entire sales experience," Ryan Leuty, Assistant IT Director, McLean County said. "Unitrends' reliable backup appliance has caused a measurable impact on our IT infrastructure, dramatically decreasing the backup window and greatly enhancing system performance." Nelson said. "They provide an outstanding product that performs as promised."

The Results

McLean County uses both bare metal and file level backups to achieve a tremendously simplified restore process requiring less time and complexity. With Unitrends enterprise-level solution, the county government is now secure, protecting 4 TB of data primarily residing on Windows servers that are virtualized using VMware. McLean's IT department was also impressed with the attentive and responsive support team as an additional advantage to Unitrends' solutions. "We have not yet encountered a problem they have not been able to quickly resolve," Nelson said. "Unitrends' provides a backup appliance that allows customers to focus on their business instead of backup, creates immediate total cost of ownership savings for the county government, and protects crucial data, while meeting the IT department's needs for a low-maintenance, easy-to-manage solution."