



A County Government Disaster Recovery Story

Government Success Story | Pearl River County, Mississippi

Solution Highlights

Industry | County Government

Protected Environment:

- VMware virtualized servers
- Virtualized NAS'
- Windows servers

Solution

- Unitrends Recovery Series 824S
- Unitrends RXDA removable media

Benefits

- Full data protection
- Removable media protection



Unitrends saved over 20 years of data and I will be forever grateful for the decision to bring you on board!

Jesse Taylor
System Administrator
Data Star Inc.



Pearl River County

Pearl River is the fourth largest of Mississippi's 82 counties, officially formed in 1872. Incorporated and added to the county in September, 30,1904, the town of Picayune has become Pearl River County's largest city. Pearl River County is growing today at a fast pace. From its early beginnings the county has placed a great deal of emphasis on the importance of preparing its citizens for a better future. The county is home to Pearl River Community College, which is proving to be not only Mississippi's first but one of Mississippi's best institutions of advanced learning.

The Challenge

Several years ago, Pearl County chose Data Star Inc., a local Managed Service Provider (MSP), to supply advanced IT operations and support. Jesse Taylor is an IT Administrator working for Data Star but spends all of his time on site at the county seat working to ensure IT operations flow smoothly. Shortly after arriving at the county, Taylor began to investigate the backup and recovery capabilities of Pearl River. "I was told they were adequate, but when we dug into it we really didn't know if the backups were good or we could really recover" Taylor said. Data Star, a reseller of Unitrends, recommended that Pearl County invest in a Unitrends Recovery Series appliance to protect the county's data.

The county purchased a Unitrends Recovery Series 824S appliance in early 2018 to protect several of the virtualized servers and NAS' on which the county runs their operations. In June, 2019, four hard drives supporting a virtualized NAS failed simultaneously, putting at risk almost 7TB of data. "The drives stored county maps, documents for the circuit county court, judges documents, hearing lists, and other critical information." Taylor explained. "You are never really sure that everything will work correctly but we restored everything from the Unitrends appliance. Unitrends saved over 20 years of data and I will be forever grateful for the decision to bring you on board! During the outage, I had hope, but wasn't sure. After the restore completed successfully, and the spin-up of a virtual server was a success, I was finally able to breathe again!!!"

Follow Up

A second server failed shortly thereafter. That one was being protected with Windows Backup, but since Unitrends Recovery Series appliance worked so well, it now protects this server since Unitrends broad Interoperability & Compatibility matrix includes Windows 2003.

For added protection Pearl River added RXDA removable media to their Unitrends appliance. Each day a drive with a full backup is removed from the appliance and locked in a fireproof box. "It's not optimal," Taylor said, "but it works for us. We would love another appliance at the remote Sheriffs office and hope to add that soon."



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