



G&F Financial Group Modernize Data Backup With the Move to a Single, Centralized Management Console

G&F Financial Group

Industry:	Financial Services
Headquarters:	Burnaby, BC
Scope:	205 employees, 26,000 members, 13 branches and over \$1.3 billion in assets under administration
Website:	https://www.gffg.com



Objectives

Consolidate the management of backups under one application

Move to economical storage devices

Background

G&F Financial Group (G&F) has delivered trusted service to its members since 1940. As a leading credit union in British Columbia, G&F has over 26,000 members, over \$1.3 billion in assets under administration, and a combined network of 13 branches across the province. G&F's IT team is responsible for the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the IT infrastructure.

Challenge: Time Consuming Backup and Recovery Process

The IT team is always looking for ways to streamline operations and improve the level of service provided to the company's 205 employees, and its members. Knowing there was room for improvement, in the fall of 2013 they decided to examine their backup and recovery practices. They were spending too much time managing multiple applications and procedures to keep their data safe and secure.

"We were running five different backup programs which were simply too time consuming to manage. We wanted to consolidate the management backups under a single management console for ease of use," said Dean Wutke, Manager IT Infrastructure, G&F Financial Group.

Wutke and his team began the search for a partner who could help them design and implement the solution. They took the time to look at a number of different options and ultimately awarded the project to Scalar Decisions.

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Solution: Modernization and Consolidation Through a Single Pane of Glass

Under the old environment, G&F systems administrators oversaw five applications, requiring them to login to each application and key in command lines to determine if the backups ran successfully.

“We backup locally during the day and nightly, then backup to an offsite storage facility, followed by backup to a tape. For ease of use, we wanted one program that would provide visibility under one single pane of glass,” said Wutke.

The Scalar team designed a solution that utilizes a CommVault environment that provides backup of data centre storage and services. All backups at the data centre are replicated to the disaster recovery site for offsite availability and transition from near term disk to long-term tape storage.

From a single, centralized management console, G&F’s administrators can now easily see within one email report if everything is working as it should. This new level of visibility has greatly improved workforce productivity for the IT staff.

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Solution

- CommVault backup solution
- NetApp storage system upgrade and data migration
- IBM server upgrade

Benefits

- Savings of 5 hours per week in backup management
- Improved visibility and manageability through a single pane of glass

“This consolidation along with the absence of custom scripting has saved us about five hours per week in our backup process. We always had confidence in our backups and restores, but the changes have made us that much more efficient,” said Wutke.

The consolidation project also necessitated an upgrade to the NetApp storage system, moving from a FAS2040 to a FAS2240. “We took G&F down from five storage area networking (SAN) units to two by making the move to the FAS2240,” said Alex Dawson, Solution Architect at Scalar. This consolidation has made it simpler for the IT team to manage the data.

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