

CASE STUDY: CAS SEVERN PROVIDES DATA PROTECTION SOLUTION TO CHARLES COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

RECOVERY TIME REDUCED TO MINUTES

THE SITUATION

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is one of the fastest growing school systems in Maryland. Located in southern Maryland, the school system serves more than 26,000 children and employs nearly 3,500 people. The school system is comprised of 36 elementary, middle and high school facilities and four educational centers. With its close proximity to Washington, D.C., the county is continuing to grow as commuters move into the area.



The key to success is the initial assessment. When we can compile an organization's critical data and make it 'real' for them, they get their best results. That's when true transformation takes place.



— Joe King, Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, CAS Severn

One of the primary responsibilities of the CCPS information technology department is managing the student and administrative data infrastructure. This includes servers, storage, network, endpoints, databases, access management, data security, and backup. Ensuring that student data, testing information, and student demographics are always accessible and secure is a top priority.

CCPS used a variety of storage and backup systems during the last 12 years. In 2004, the school system used a "home-grown" backup and recovery system, according to Bijaya Devkota, CIO and Director of Technology for CCPS. Then the school district progressed to a tape system. On a regular basis, data was manually backed up onto tapes and taken to an off-site location. If an outage occurred, a staff member would go get the backup tapes so the data could be restored. This process could take up to a week to complete.

THE CHALLENGE

With the school population growth steadily growing over



Higher
Education

CLIENT

Charles County Public School System

INDUSTRY

K-12 Education

CHALLENGES

- Inconsistent back-up policies across distributed network
- Data recovery process required 3-5 days
- Manual back-up system was inefficient for growing amounts data

SOLUTION

- IBM Spectrum Protect

RESULTS

- Well-defined and managed backup process for all locations
- Recovery time objectives reduced to minutes and hours
- Automated backup system ensures all data available at all times
- Significant infrastructure cost savings



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the last 10 years, the amount of student and administrative data has increased making storage and backup a challenge with the existing infrastructure. The manual tape backup process was inefficient and ineffective. The 1-week recovery time was not acceptable. Additionally, CCPS's distributed facilities (41 buildings) were not all in compliance with the CCPS backup and storage policies.

The school system needed a comprehensive evaluation of its backup and recovery policies to identify the most effective solution. The objectives were to implement a flexible storage system that could scale with the school population; to significantly improve recovery time objectives; and to implement consistent backup and recovery procedures across all locations.

THE SOLUTION

Trusted solution provider CAS Severn engaged with CCPS to assess the situation. CAS Severn began by conducting a policy and procedure workshop with CCPS technology leaders.

"We ask all the hard questions in this session," said Joe King, Vice President and Chief Technology Officer for CAS Severn. "How much data are you storing? How long are you storing it? How successful are you at backing it up? These are not easy questions for an organization the size of CCPS. Fortunately, we use an IBM methodology that helps generate this information."

Following the in-depth assessment, CAS Severn recommended cloud-based IBM® Spectrum Protect™ to CCPS. Spectrum Protect, formerly Tivoli® Storage Manager, is a data protection platform that gives enterprises a single point of control and administration for backup and recovery. It enables reliable, cost effective backups and fast recovery for virtual, physical and cloud environments of all sizes, including virtual machines, file servers, email, databases, enterprise resource planning systems, mainframes and desktops.

With Spectrum Protect, organizations can:

- Improve recovery time and recovery point objectives.
- Reduce backup and recovery infrastructure costs.
- Control virtual, physical and cloud backup data from a single dashboard.
- Have a complete view of its backup system.
- Increase administrator productivity.
- Scale up or down as workloads flex.

THE RESULTS

For CCPS, the Spectrum Protect cloud data protection solution saves time, reduces costs, frees up IT staff, and ensures data is safe and secure. The school system's recovery time is now measured in minutes and hours versus days. The automated backup is completed within minutes and eliminates tedious manual processes for IT staff, freeing them to work on more strategic projects.

CCPS is saving on IT costs as a result of a more efficient backup and recovery solution. Spectrum Protect's software-defined solution has eliminated the need for multiple, single-purpose backup/recovery appliances. These results are on track with what other organizations have experienced with this solution. IBM research has found that switching to Spectrum Protect can reduce backup infrastructure costs by up to 53 percent.

The school system now has consistent backup/recovery policies across its diverse environments. The Spectrum Protect dashboard allows internal staff to monitor and control backup processes for all 41 facilities. And the solution can scale up with student population growth.

