

NYU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ENSURES CONTINUOUS PROTECTION OF ITS EMAIL AND STUDENT DATA

CASE STUDY

Overview

The NYU School of Medicine, one of the nation's leading centers of advanced biomedical learning, has a history of excellence of more than 160 years in scientific research and in the education and training of physicians. Supporting more than 250 servers and 10,000 students, faculty and staff, NYU School of Medicine selected the Compellent Storage Center to meet its need for an affordable storage solution with enterprise recovery capabilities.

Situation

After three years of consistent growth NYU's storage architecture was a network of direct-attached storage devices, providing more than 650 GB of storage to 250 servers. As Director of Systems, Jeff Berliner led the IT team and recognized it was time to move the school to an enterprise storage solution.

As SANs were being evaluated, a crisis drove home the system's importance – an email server failed. Thanks to the RAID array no data was lost; however, no email could be delivered until the server's large volume was restored. The outage left staff and students using less efficient methods of communication and struggling to share research information, submit applications and schedule meetings. Berliner and the team worked day and night to recover the data and restore email service.

Once email was back online, Berliner and other school administrators were able to justify the investment in a data storage solution that would maximize uptime and provide fast, simple and reliable data recovery.

Solution

Over the previous years, Berliner had met with multiple SAN vendors, but none provided a scaleable solution with continuous data protection capabilities that was affordable to a public university. Berliner selected Storage Center for its integrated recovery features that allowed him to take snapshots of data volumes every 15 minutes of the day (more than 150 per week) and recover to those snapshots in the event of a server failure. With Storage Center, NYU has eliminated the delays and downtime that previously exposed its community to the risks of email or data loss. Today, NYU School of Medicine has continuous data protection for email and other core services ensuring reliable 24/7 operation.

“ ” QUOTES

“As a world-class medical school, our students and faculty rely on IT services to share research data, submit grant applications and distribute course materials. Storage Center gives me the security to know that I can immediately recover to any point in time in the event of data loss or even just a deleted file. Compellent allows me to perform as a world-class IT shop.”

Jeff Berliner
Director of Systems
NYU School of Medicine

Requirements

- Continuous protection of email and file servers
- Improve recovery time from days to minutes
- Reduce administration time
- Greater reliability and performance at an affordable price
- Block-level storage to support numerous operating systems (OSs)

Results

- Stores an unlimited number of snapshots without performance degradation
- Increases service level to students and faculty by recovering deleted files quickly
- Minimizes system downtime from disk or server failures
- Ability to recover to any point in time in less than 10 minutes



QUOTES

“Data Instant Replay works across all of our operating systems concurrently without the expense of server software or server agents, ensuring quick consistent recovery for all our applications.”

Jeff Berliner
Director of Systems
NYU School of Medicine

Recovery to Any Point-In-Time Delivers Continuous Protection

Berliner and his team were pleased that Storage Center integrated into their environment without any problems. With Replays (snapshots) set for each volume at 15-minute intervals, NYU has continuous data protection and can immediately recover to any point-in-time in the event of a server failure or even just a deleted file. With Compellent's space-efficient architecture, NYU can create and store an unlimited number of Replays without utilizing excess storage capacity or negatively impacting performance.

Block-Level Storage Supports Heterogeneous Server and OS Environment

NYU's server environment includes Windows, Unix, Linux and Apple's OS X. NYU could not afford to deploy and maintain storage that depended on OS-specific software or features. Compellent's Dynamic Block Architecture (DBA) enables sophisticated and fully-integrated storage capabilities by managing data at the block level for efficient space utilization, virtualization and quick recovery. With block-level storage and DBA, NYU can easily expand the capacity and management applications of its storage without OS limitations, without server agents and without impacting end-users.

Streamlines Storage Administration and Automates Recovery Process

Storage Center's intuitive point-and-click interface enables the rapid creation of a nested snapshot schedule, vastly expanding the capabilities of a single administrator and automating the repetitive, time-consuming tasks related to recovery. With the Compellent SAN, NYU has streamlined its entire backup procedure and requires 50 percent less time to manage backup and recovery.



QUOTES

“Compellent's wizard-based setup and recovery makes it easy to implement continuous data protection and spend less time managing backups.”

Jeff Berliner
Director of Systems
NYU School of Medicine



Compellent Technologies
7625 Smetana Lane
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

TL 877 715 3300
FX 952 294 3333
www.compellent.com