SyncBackPro in Education: A Case Study

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Background

I have been working for Bennett School District as their Technology Director for 8 years. We have always used tape backup and found that even though we had an auto loader that it took a lot of attention to insure that we had good backups. I started to have trouble with our autoloader and decided to purchase a new autoloader and a secondary backup solution.

This secondary solution was a proprietary solution and the company that I purchased it from did not give me any technology support on the software. This was an expensive solution that I never fully figured out. The solution was a server solution that did a bare bones backup to hard disk.

My new tape backup solution worked well for most things, but when it came to backing up SQL and Exchange server I had a lot of trouble with the software. Once again I called the manufacture of the software that I just purchased and they wanted to charge me for support to get their software working. I have been very displeased with both of these companies and would not recommend their solution to anyone.

Real-Time Cost-Effective Backup

I have been getting proposals for a different backup solution for the past year. On average these solutions would have cost $20,000. This time around I decided that I need to do my homework and insure that our next investment would take care of our needs. Our needs for a backup solution are very basic. When I lose data on a server I want to be able to recover that data. I want to be able to keep a real time backup so I can minimize loss. I also need an offsite backup solution.

The Solution: SyncBackPro

My previous tape backup did not even take care of the district's basic needs of having the data on tape. It failed more of the time rather than being successful. The backup solution that I am using now is SyncBackPro from 2BrightSparks. With this solution I have several backup solutions in one. I can do a traditional backup to hard disk, I can do a mirror image, and I can backup to an FTP server. I am currently using all of these solutions. In the future I am going to setup an offsite backup by teaming up with another school district. They will house some storage for me and I will house some storage for them. That will give both of the districts a place to do remote backups. As SyncBackPro is able to back up to an FTP server it provides the technology to do this.

I have been using SyncBackPro for a few months now and have checked it often. I can actually see that it is backing up my data like I expect. My servers house about 2 terabits of data and it takes about 20 minutes to do the incremental backups every 2 hours. With my past solution it took most of the weekend to backup.

Conclusion

I have been very happy with SyncBackPro's simplicity and it is a robust solution that continues to backup my data without stalling because of some error. Every time I look at our servers I can see at a glance that my backups have been successful. Since I have been using SyncBackPro. I have gained confidence that my data is as safe as I have made the hardware that houses these backups.

In the past I would occasionally get concerned then I would spend about a week of my time to ensure that I have a good backup and I never accomplished a good backup that made me feel at ease. SyncBackPro is doing the job well and is saving me time. The kicker is that I purchased this solution at a fraction of the cost of the other solutions that I looked at, and SyncBackPro is meeting all of the districts needs for a backup solution.

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