



Backup Express

Success Story: Saint Mary's College

Saint Mary's College Utilizes Backup Express to Protect Growing Volumes of Data in a Heterogeneous Environment

Organizational Profile

- A leader in the education of women for more than 150 years
- 2½ terabytes of data to protect

Business Needs

- Back up Solaris, Windows, Linux and Mac OS X data and applications
- A fast and reliable data protection solution

Environment

- Solaris, Windows, Linux and Mac OS X
- ADIC Scalar 100 tape library and four AIT-3 drives

Benefits

- Backup Express provides innovative technology for UNIX, Windows, Linux, NetWare/OES, and Mac OS X environments
- Achieves superior performance through a three-tiered architecture, concurrent processing, strategic distribution of work, and sophisticated I/O techniques
- Intuitive browser-based management interface

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Keith Fowlkes
Director of Information Technology
St. Mary's College

The Challenge:

Located in Notre Dame, Indiana, Saint Mary's College has been a leader in the education of women for more than 150 years. Saint Mary's promotes a life of intellectual vigor, aesthetic appreciation, religious sensibility, and social responsibility. It consistently ranks at the top of its category in U.S. News and World Report's annual survey of American colleges and universities. Approximately 1,500 women from all over the world attend Saint Mary's. The responsibility of protecting the 2½ terabytes of data created by these students, the faculty and administration is charged to the College's IT department. System and Network Administrator Doug McKeown explains that their backup process, which had been in place for several years, was becoming obsolete: "We would back up the data to cartridge tapes using USFdump and USFrestore, but it was a hit-or-miss process involving a lot of tape changing. We wouldn't be able to complete the backup of some of our servers in one day either." With growing data volumes, the IT department needed to find a fast and reliable data protection solution for the College's heterogeneous environment.

The Solution:

After evaluating several leading products, Saint Mary's College selected Backup Express from Syncsort Incorporated. Director of Information Technology Keith Fowlkes explains, "The functionality of Backup Express is great and platform independent, which is valuable to us because we support Sun Solaris, Windows, Linux, and Mac OS X server systems." McKeown adds, "We're primarily a Solaris shop but we're running Backup Express on a Windows box." He currently performs a base backup once a month, a differential on the 15th of the month, and incrementals in between. The data is backed up to disk on an HP Surestore and then to tape on four AIT-3 drives at an offsite disk storage across campus using a gigabit fibre connection. The data being backed up includes the campus filestore, which is approximately 800GB of shared file space for Windows, MAC, and UNIX clients, as well as the Java Communication Suite from Sun Microsystems. The base backups are kept for a year, while the differentials are stored for 60 days and incrementals for 30 days.

The Benefits:

"We were up and running within a week, and that includes a brand new ADIC Scalar 100 tape library, new server, new hardware, and new software," McKeown says. "The comfort level with Backup Express is very high. I don't have to worry about the backup process when I go home at night." McKeown has to do file-level restores about two times a week. Using Backup Express, the process only takes five minutes. Another benefit is the time savings involved. He explains, "Previously, we had someone on our staff who spent a large amount of time just changing tapes during the backup process. With Backup Express, we have the ability to perform backups much easier so we've been able to free up significant staff time for other projects."