



Case Study

Revinetix DISK2DISK2DISK™ Backup and Recovery Appliances – the Choice for Data Protection in K-12 Education

Granite City School District #9

"I was absolutely miserable with tape backup. It seemed that we needed our own staff just to troubleshoot and work out the problems with Veritas. We installed the Revinetix product and have had nothing but success. The backup process has been really simple, and we are very pleased."

Zack Suhre

Director of Information Systems and Technology, Granite City School District #9

Background

More and more network administrators in K-12 education environments are switching from traditional tape backup to reliable disk-based solutions – to protect student records, course materials, electronic mailboxes, and other school information systems from the possibility of data loss. Two such school districts include Granite City School District #9 and Rich Township High School District #227, located in the greater St. Louis, Missouri and Chicago, Illinois areas.

With 4,300 students enrolled, Rich Township High School District #227 operates 18 computer servers running Windows and Netware® operating systems. Spread across its Central, East and South high school campus sites, Rich Township's servers are used for student file management, DNS entries, SIF Zone Integration, Blackberry®, Microsoft Exchange®, Active Directory, and other applications.

Granite City School District #9 hosts 7,300 students at 10 different schools. At these facilities and its central administration office, the district relies on 17 network servers running Windows® 2003. These computers were traditionally backed-up with a tape auto-rotator system using Veritas® backup software.

Rich Township High School District #227

“We considered a variety of different products, but I found that there was no other single comprehensive solution with the interface, configuration, operation, ease-of-use, redundancy and archiving capabilities offered by Revinetix.”

Ted Koutavas

Director of Information
Systems, Rich Township High
School District #227

Backup Challenges

Rich Township and Granite City School Districts faced similar challenges backing up their network data.

“We used to use Veritas tape backup, and it was absolutely miserable,” said Zack Suhre, Director of Information Systems and Technology for Granite City School District #9. “There was nothing workable with Veritas. We were completely dissatisfied. It seemed that we needed our own staff just to troubleshoot and work out the problems to implement backup with the product.”

“We have 11 buildings in the district, and we don’t really have a staff member assigned to each building, so the tapes were not getting rotated on a good schedule, and they failed a lot.”

“Tapes became a management nightmare for us,” said Ted Koutavas, Director of Information Systems for Rich Township High School District #227. “The dilemma I had was how to back-up at each location. When you have staff members swapping out and rotating tapes, there are too many circumstances where data is not backed-up properly or regularly. There is nothing worse than to think you are backing up and yet you’re not.”

The Solution

With the assistance of Value Added Reseller (VAR) SpeedLink Solutions (www.speedlnk.com), these school districts selected the Revinetix Sentio™ backup and recovery appliance to resolve their data protection issues. Unlike the prior tape solutions, Revinetix’ Sentio supports automated backups to the desktop level for every machine connected to

Revinetix offers the first true Total Disk Backup solution, delivering the advantages of disk and disk based offsite storage.

a network and features removable Serial ATA (SATA) disk drives so that data can be safeguarded offsite for archival purposes.

“We considered a variety of different products, but I found there was no other single comprehensive solution with the interface, configuration, operation, ease-of-use, redundancy and archiving capabilities offered by Revinetix,” Koutavas continued.

“It was important for us to be able to quickly retrieve data and restore information at our facilities. With the drill down capabilities that Revinetix’ software provides us, we can locate the file and restore it with a click of a button. With tape, on the other hand, we had to go through a very tedious process to restore anything – locating the tape, re-cataloging that tape, searching for the specific file in the catalog, and then restoring it. Now with disk, I can navigate through a Web browser and find any file with ease.”

“We installed the Revinetix product and have had nothing but success,” said Shure of Granite School District #9. “The backup process has been really simple, and we are very pleased. I have particularly liked the interface, the ease of use, and the web-based portal.”

Backing up Education

Revinetix understands the data protection needs of K-12 and higher education institutions. Small and medium businesses (SMBs) are now empowered to replace traditional tape backup devices with high speed, hot swappable hard disks that can be easily removed and stored off-site for disaster recovery measures. Revinetix appliances are known for



reliability and ease of use - typical setup time is less than 1 hour. Unlike most enterprise backup solutions, Revinetix offers a site license rather than a per-client license fee, allowing every user on the network access to the backup appliance for the same cost.

Advanced Management Software

Each Revinetix appliance comes with the revolutionary operating system RevOS™ to manage and automate backup and recovery functions through a simple to use Web-based administration interface. Supporting all major operating systems in use today, this powerful software keeps a running catalog database of all the files that have been saved on the appliance, so when the time comes to retrieve vital information, you simply point and click to find the file or directory you need.

Bare Metal Restore

Revinetix products include Bare Metal Restore (BMR) software. This software is an IT manager's best friend. By creating a complete disk image to be stored on the appliance, the BMR software can quickly add new users, or get users back up and productive after a fatal system crash. Virtually any hard drive can be backed up and cloned using this utility.

Network Attached Storage

Revinetix software has built-in Network Attached Storage (NAS) capabilities, which allow users to quickly and easily add storage capacity for RAID-protected file sharing. IT administrators can make unused disk space on appliances available to users on the LAN, making a Revinetix appliance double as a network file server.



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Exchange Agent

Using Revinetix' Microsoft Exchange Server Agent, users can view, select and restore individual emails and/or mailboxes from live Exchange server databases based on search criteria.

Powerful Performance

The unique Revinetix system of disk communication allows the device to read and write different files at the same time - an impossible task to accomplish using serial tape technology. This expanded data handling capability dramatically reduces the amount of time required for data backup and recovery.

Unparalleled Flexibility

Revinetix supports hot swappable drive technology that enables customers to grow their capacity without the need to upgrade to new, expensive equipment. This technology allows users to store data off-line and off-site on easily removable archive disk drives, totally eliminating the need to transfer data to serial magnetic tape and providing rapid data access and restore when required. Revinetix products currently support storage capacities ranging from 400 Gigabytes up to 18 Terabytes of raw storage capacity.

About Revinetix, Inc.

Revinetix provides innovative data protection solutions that ensure continuity of business, control of critical information and confidence in recovery systems. Revinetix offers the first total disk backup and recovery solution that allows automated backup schedules for every user on the network and allows critical data to be stored safely off-site from a single appliance.