

Canton Township Relies on Replay Applmage for Application Backup and Recovery

Background

Canton Township is home to 85,000 people in southeastern Michigan. A large suburb of Detroit, Canton employs about 600 people in police, fire department and administrative positions. The majority of those employees rely on email for communication with one another, residents, elected officials and many other people who use and impact the services they provide. Joe Kocinski was using Microsoft Data Protection Manager (DPM) to protect Canton's vital Exchange environment but he still lacked a cost-effective way to restore lost email messages. He turned to Replay Applmage to solve that problem and to protect the full Exchange environment along with SQL and application servers.

“Until I found Replay Applmage, nothing was cost-effective”

— **Joe Kocinski**
Network Administrator,
Canton Township

The voices in his head

The approximately 600 people that work in Canton Township's police, fire department, and administrative positions rely on Microsoft Exchange for daily communications. “Email is a critical application,” says Joe Kocinski, Canton's Network Administrator. “No one appreciates it until they don't have it - except me and the voices in my head.” Joe relied on storage limits to keep his server “lean and fit” and used Microsoft Data Protection Manager to backup the data store. That just wasn't enough.

“We needed to be able to restore lost messages and get Exchange back online quickly if it ever went down,” explains Joe. “We couldn't just rely on tape backup. If the server went down we'd have to retrieve the tape backup of the data and then rebuild the whole server.”

Joe set out to find an “effective way to restore a message from within DPM” and located AppAssure through a Google search. “With the application pack for Exchange, I can mount the Exchange data store, find a message, then restore it to a mailbox or PST file.” reports Joe. “It worked great.”



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Success with Replay Applmage

Joe realized Replay Applmage could give him the full application protection he needed for Exchange, SQL servers, and application servers. He explains that “until I found Replay Applmage, nothing was cost-effective.”

Now, Joe protects three SQL servers, one back-end Exchange server, and a few physical servers that run financial software and geographic information systems. “Implementation was flawless,” remembers Joe. “It could not have been simpler.”

Replay Applmage takes snapshots of Canton’s servers at various intervals; every 15 minutes for Exchange storage, every 30 minutes for the Exchange system, every 30 minutes for one file server, every 2 hours for another. “I’m using repurposed hardware with 800 GB of storage space and, so far, Replay Applmage has only used 23% of that capacity. Considering everything I’m protecting, that’s quite a feat.”

Clicking along into the future

Joe says that Replay Applmage is “clicking right along.” He hasn’t had to rely on AppAssure tech support, though they were helpful in verifying that Replay Applmage was indeed successfully backing up data. He has forwarded a feature idea to his sales rep. “AppAssure offers the kind of openness I appreciate,” he says.

Like many IT managers, Joe anticipates a virtual environment in the future. “I have used Replay Applmage to restore data to a virtual test environment and it worked perfectly,” he says. “All the latest data was there.”

Joe does have the same cost restraints as other public and private organizations so his virtualization plans hinge on finding solutions that fit his tight budget. He has been comparing costs and feels that “Replay Applmage is more cost-effective than other solutions and that’s important.”

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