

University of Maryland finds “peace of mind” with Replay Appliance

Background

Academic departments at the University of Maryland rely on systems administration teams to deliver all IT services including e-mail. System Analyst Carlos Luceno and his team watch over the e-mail system used by electrical engineering, physics, and chemistry department faculty and staff. Not only was his backup system difficult to use in normal situations, it offered no disaster recovery help at all. That was keeping Luceno up at night. And then he found Replay Appliance.

“With Replay Appliance, I know that I can get Exchange back no matter what goes wrong.”

— Carlos Luceno
System Analyst,
University of Maryland

The Nightmare

When Carlos Luceno transitioned his e-mail environment from Exchange 2003 to 2007 he decided it was time to change backup solutions as well. He and his team on the hook to protect the mailboxes of professors and administrative staff in three academic departments at the University of Maryland and those mailboxes contain critical information.

“We were using a plug-in for a backup solution which worked well but it was a nightmare to use,” remembers Luceno. “It wasn’t going to work at all for disaster recovery and we wanted to be able to bring the whole system back up quickly if needed. All our servers run virtually and Replay Appliance works well in that situation so we gave it a try.”



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Everyday Peace of Mind

Having used Replay Applmage for over six months, Luceno is happy to report that he hasn’t had to recover from any disasters though he says “the peace of mind I have is handy. I know I can get my whole system back up fast.”

Luceno and his team are using Replay Applmage to continuously backup Exchange and are discovering real benefits over the processes that had been in place. “We used to run incremental backups through the week and then full backups on the weekend,” reports Luceno. “With Replay Applmage we don’t have that crazy resource suck every weekend. Every the nightly incremental backups were putting a real strain on Exchange.”

Replay Applmage takes snapshots of Luceno’s Exchange server every 15 minutes and then rolls up data every night. Luceno has no idea how long the roll-up takes explaining “It’s so insignificant I haven’t even timed it.”

Good for the Environment

Luceno is quick to point out that his Exchange 2007/Windows Server 2008 environment does pose challenges. “We have a complex environment and all sorts of little disasters can happen,” says Luceno. “We used to have a perpetual fear that something would go really wrong and we wouldn’t be able to fix it. With Replay Applmage, I know that I can get Exchange back no matter what goes wrong.”

Replay Applmage installation was easy, upgrades have been easy and Luceno reports that AppAssure support is “great.” “It’s nice to know there’s someone knowledgeable to talk to,” says Luceno. “No one likes to do backups and it’s great when a product just...works.”

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