

# Wilson Center, nation's top-ranked regional studies think tank, turns to 11:11 Systems for unmatched disaster recovery in the cloud.

## SOLUTION: DRaaS

The Wilson Center supports world-renowned fellows as they research topics of national and international significance. In search of increased protection and flexibility, it turned to iLand, now 11:11 Systems, to protect its business systems with secure, compliant, and cost-effective cloud-based disaster recovery.

## Client Profile

[The Wilson Center](#) is the nation's key non-partisan policy forum, tackling global issues through independent research, open dialogue, and actionable ideas. Chartered by Congress in 1968 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., the center brings fresh thinking and deep expertise to the most pressing policy challenges we face today. In 2019, the Wilson Center was named the No. 1 regional studies think tank in the world. For more information, visit: [www.wilsoncenter.org](http://www.wilsoncenter.org).

## The Search for a New DR Solution

Given the sensitive nature of the Wilson Center's data and its location in a nation's capital, Bruce Griffith, chief technology officer, wanted to ensure that the center had a secure disaster recovery solution in place.

"We're in Washington, D.C., which can be a target at times for both physical and cyber attacks," Griffith said. "It was critical for us to establish a plan that would ensure our data was safe from outside threats, while allowing our staff, fellows, and interns to continue working and collaborating among themselves."

Every academic year, the Wilson Center welcomes more than 120 new fellows and 200 interns. Maintaining the IT department keeps Griffith and his team very busy, as the department covers everything from managing each user's desktop and collaboration systems to the overall IT infrastructure. Griffith has a lean staff and needed a DR solution that was low-maintenance.

After a bad experience with a previous DR solution that couldn't deliver reliable data replication, Griffith continued to search for a solution that would meet all of his departments' needs. That's where [11:11] came in.

## CHALLENGES:

- Needed a cost-effective DR solution for a small IT team
- Must protect data from outside attacks
- Requirement for colocation device

## SOLUTION:

- 11:11 DRaaS for Zerto

## BENEFITS:

- Flexible pricing drives cost-effective DR solution
- Ease of management and visibility through 11:11 Cloud Console
- Security and compliance helps meet US FIPS requirements

## PROFILE:

- Size: SMB
- Industry: Education/Research

“When you have limited time but a lot of demands, it’s nice to be able to cut to the chase and discuss with salespeople and a deployment team what your needs are, have them understand, and give you a solution that you can quickly and easily maintain. I’ve found that with [11:11 Systems].”

**Bruce Griffith, Chief Technology Officer**

### Wish list for DR

The Wilson Center’s IT team had a list of demands to consider when searching for a provider. It was essential for every user’s information to be protected and accessible — both for day-to-day use and emergency failovers. In short, Griffith needed a DR solution that was flexible, reliable, and cost-effective. Here’s how [11:11] was able to meet the center’s needs:

#### Versatile solution drives cost-effectiveness

Griffith runs a nimble IT shop that supports a dynamic organization tackling global issues through independent research and open dialogue bringing actionable ideas for the policy community. Versatility is an important factor for the small-sized team. [11:11]’s user-friendly cloud console combined with Zerto’s array of capabilities simplified DR management.

“Insight into my cloud resources enables me to monitor the status of the network at any time and perform failover testing,” Griffith explained. “I’m able to easily manage my entire DR solution with less staff.”

What also attracted Griffith to the [11:11]-Zerto DR offering was the flexible pricing. The no-nonsense pricing per VM and per TB of storage provides the ability to protect different workloads and only pay for what is being used now — with the flexibility to grow the number of protected VMs in the future.

#### Reaping the Rewards of Cloud Adoption

IT departments are being pulled in several directions with increased technical requirements. [11:11]’s service offerings have allowed Griffith and his team to adapt and be efficient with their time and resources.

“Every department at [11:11] has been phenomenal to work with,” Griffith said. “They’ve walked us through and explained every step of the process to us. Overall, I would rate the [11:11] teams as outstanding.”

#### Secure Data Replication For High-Profile Research

In addition to flexibility, Griffith also had to prioritize security. The Wilson Center adheres to US Federal Industry Processing Standards (US FIPS) for the bulk of their operations. The advanced security features of the 11:11 Cloud platform — including encryption, intrusion detection, and antivirus/anti malware — help the IT team to meet these federal requirements.

Colocation for an additional security device was a must-have option for Griffith. Staff, fellows, and interns at the Wilson Center are conducting cutting-edge research and expect that their data is secure. With [11:11]’s colocation capabilities and additional security and compliance offerings, Griffith is able to assure every Wilson Center member’s information is kept secure and confidential.

“It was key for us to find a cloud service provider with colocation in place within the replication environment,” said Griffith.

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