

Law school partners with iland — now 11:11 Systems — and GreenPages to protect IT systems from ransomware.

SOLUTIONS: DRaaS

Client Profile

Vermont Law School is a private, American Bar Association-accredited law school specializing in environmental law and policy located in South Royalton, Vermont. The school is regularly voted the No. 1 environmental law school in the United States and caters to both on-campus and distance-learning students, offering degree and masters law programs. The Vermont Law IT team, headed up by Sean Lee, supports 300 faculty and staff in addition to their legal students.

Evolution to Business Continuity

Protecting the Law School's data and ensuring IT resiliency has always been a priority for Lee and his team. But, competing IT initiatives and a limited budget meant that a Disaster-Recovery-as-a-Service (DRaaS) project was difficult to get off the ground. Previously, the IT team had deployed an off-the-shelf solution for off-site backups but this consistently let them down.

"The backup solution was unreliable, incredibly slow, and regularly failed," Lee explains. "From an administrator's perspective, it was impenetrable—it was hard to know which systems were covered and there were no considerations for virtualized environments."

Malware Attack Prompts Immediate Action

Lee's plans to implement a reliable and secure DRaaS solution were expedited when the school suffered a malware attack. Unfortunately, because of their limited off-site backup capabilities, the majority of their IT infrastructure was disabled for more than two days and there was a huge disruption to the business. Even with cyber-insurance, the recovery from the attack was very costly and time consuming and provided the impetus needed to fast-track the DR project.

To start the search, Sean Lee turned to GreenPages, a leading systems integrator and reseller of [11:11]'s Cloud services. GreenPages has been a valued IT partner for Vermont Law School for many years and was able to provide DR consultation and advice the school could trust.

CHALLENGES

- Off-site backup solution was slow and unreliable
- Working with limited budgets and IT resources
- Costly malware attack highlighted urgent DR need

SOLUTIONS

- 11:11 DRaaS for Zerto

BENEFITS

- Familiar VMware environment
- Fast and seamless onboarding
- Advanced security features ensure compliance
- Intuitive management through the 11:11 Cloud Console

PROFILE

- SIZE: Mid-Size
- INDUSTRY: Education
- HEAD OFFICE: Vermont, USA
- www.vermontlaw.edu

“In this age of increased cyber-attacks, the value of having the [11:11] DRaaS solution in place is practically incalculable. Our IT systems are protected and secure should the worst happen.”

Sean Lee, General Manager of IT at Vermont Law School

DR That Fits Right In

After understanding the DR needs of Vermont Law School, GreenPages came back with a strong recommendation for the [11:11] DRaaS for Zerto solution. The school runs a fully virtualized environment based on VMware vSphere and it was important to work with a DR provider that could easily operate with vSphere. “We wanted a DR solution that’s as easy to implement and manage as the virtualization technology that our IT infrastructure is based on,” Lee said. Being a VMware-based cloud, the [11:11] DRaaS solution easily crossed this first hurdle, providing a seamless transition for replication and failover of vSphere virtual machines for Vermont Law School.

Straightforward Onboarding

The Law School also benefited from the detailed and extensive [11:11] DRaaS onboarding process which was facilitated by GreenPages. [11:11] has a Cloud Services team dedicated to customer onboarding as well as a proven DR onboarding methodology.

“The onboarding process was incredible,” Lee said. “I’ve been through countless IT implementations and this one stood out for all of the right reasons—the [11:11] Systems] team was informative, knowledgeable, and kept the project moving along at exactly the right pace.”

Security a Top Priority

The school is required to be compliant with FERPA, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which requires that student records be protected from external access and only accessible internally by approved administrators. With this in mind, Sean and his team understandably had security of any DRaaS solution they adopted as a top priority. The advanced security features of the [11:11] cloud platform including embedded vulnerability scanning, intrusion detection, and encryption ensure that replicated and failed over VMs meet the security standards required.

And, the Vermont Law IT team has benefited from the visibility and management capabilities of the [11:11] Cloud Console. “The console is very intuitive and the IT team likes to work with it,” Lee said. “It provides the executive roll-up view we require along with the ability to drill down into details on different DR elements.”

Future Partnerships

With the [11:11] DRaaS for Zerto solution in place, Lee and his IT team are sleeping better at night and are thrilled that GreenPages recommended the solution. In fact, Lee already has plans to expand the partnership and leverage other [11:11] solutions including Veeam Cloud Backup for records retention for their law clinics. With the Vermont Law School IT team in partnership with GreenPages and [11:11], the environmental legal leaders of the future are indeed in safe hands.

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