

Acing data protection in the cloud

Texas Christian University standardizes on Dell EMC to safeguard critical data while tripling cost savings



Higher education

United States

Business needs

Texas Christian University recognizes that fast, reliable access to educational and administrative data helps students succeed at college. When data backups began failing, the university switched to Dell EMC Data Protection software and storage solutions to improve availability, access speeds and efficiency of data resources.

Solutions at a glance

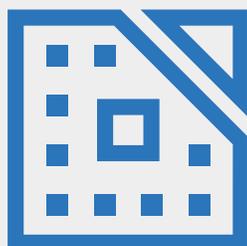
- [Dell EMC Cloud Disaster Recovery](#)
- [Dell EMC Data Domain Appliances](#)
- [Dell EMC Data Domain Virtual Edition](#)
- [Dell EMC Data Protection](#)
- [Dell EMC Isilon](#)
- VMware
- Microsoft

Business results

- Scales to fast-growing data requirements
- RTO of 4 hours or less
- Backs up a VM as much as 99% faster
- 6–8x backup administration time savings

78:1

Data deduplication rate



3x

Cost savings



As college graduates and their families know, higher education comes at a high cost—often exceeding \$200,000 for a four-year degree. Texas Christian University (TCU) understands that reliable, fast access to educational and administrative resources helps increase the chances of students receiving their coveted degrees and realizing the value of investing in college.

Using Veritas BackupExec, TCU's IT team grappled with corrupted, slow data backups and other backup-related issues. In addition, disaster recovery tests for departmental file shares fell short of TCU's recovery time objective (RTO) of four hours.

“We’re confident we can take on any data challenge and protect our fast-growing crown jewels of data that are critical to our students’ and teachers’ success.”

Craig Carlson
Associate Director, Computer Systems
Texas Christian University

After evaluating Dell EMC, Qumulo, Commvault and HPE StoreOnce solutions, TCU standardized on Dell EMC Data Protection and Dell EMC Isilon scale-out storage because of their superior data protection and efficiency.

TCU uses Dell EMC Data Protection Software and Data Domain Virtual Edition to back up 500 VMware virtual machines (VMs) and 225 physical servers to on-premises Dell EMC Data Domain appliances. Dell EMC Cloud Disaster Recovery replicates Data Domain backups to the

Microsoft Azure cloud platform. TCU also uses Dell EMC Data Protection to safeguard departmental file shares stored on Dell EMC Isilon. The 125-terabyte Dell EMC infrastructure stores and protects 250 TCU application environments, including Microsoft SQL Server and Oracle PeopleSoft.

Protection from the ground up to the cloud

With Dell EMC Data Protection, TCU provides trustworthy access to fast-growing data assets.

Craig Carlson, associate director, computer systems, TCU, says, “Dell EMC Data Protection and Isilon have significantly improved performance, reliability and scalability. As our data grows even more with a new medical school, we’re confident we can take on any data challenge and protect our fast-growing crown jewels of data that are critical to our students’ and teachers’ success.”

He adds, “With multiple protection layers, we can restore from either data center. We’ve upgraded our business continuity tremendously with Dell EMC.”

“Dell EMC has saved us three times over what we would have spent on data protection storage if we had continued without a viable deduplication solution.”

Craig Carlson
Associate Director, Computer Systems
Texas Christian University

Magical metrics equal true savings

TCU backs up more data with less storage—and it does so faster. Dell EMC provides TCU with deduplication rates of up to 99.7 percent and average deduplication ratios of up to 78:1.

“We’re getting full backups using 2.3 percent of our storage on average, which reduced our network and backup storage by 99.34 percent,” reports Carlson. “It seems like magic, but it’s real. I’ll delete a file and restore it a week later. Every time, the file comes back.”

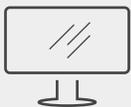
Now, TCU backs up a typical VM in 45 seconds, compared to 25 to 120 minutes before switching to Dell EMC backup technology—up to 99 percent faster. TCU also backs up 500 VMs in 3 to 3.5 hours. An admin spends 2 hours a week on backup administration versus 12 to 16 hours a week—a six-to-eightfold improvement.

Carlson reflects, “Dell EMC has saved us three times over what we would have spent on data protection storage if we had continued without a viable deduplication solution.”



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