

CASE STUDY

ELIMINATE DOWNTIME WITH FAST RECOVERY

PROFILE

CenCal Health is a publicly-funded healthcare program designed for the low-income residents of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. Founded in 1983, CenCal Health is the oldest Medicaid-only managed care program of its kind in the country. With offices in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo and serving almost 200,000 members, CenCal is a growing and vibrant organization that is constantly evolving its programs and services to improve access to care for its membership.

BACKGROUND

One of the biggest challenges for healthcare organizations is the sensitivity of patient data, as they must adhere to the stringent privacy and security requirements. Yet 88% of all ransomware attacks occur in healthcare organizations. Prior to working with Infrascale, CenCal was leveraging multiple tape backup applications to protect their Windows, HP-UX and Linux environments. At first, this solution seemed cost-effective due to the low costs of the tapes themselves. But, the cost-effectiveness was lost when factoring in the human costs such as 'running a backup' and the time it takes to shuttle tapes offsite for remote data protection and disaster recovery. The recovery time leveraging a tape backup system would take several days, at best. Windows SQL database backups were initially backed up to disk, later backed up by another application to get the data to tape, and then moved to off-site storage -- adding further complication and cost of ownership to the solution.

DATA PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

CenCal Health needed a modernized backup solution that would centralize all their data into one solution. In light of ever-looming ransomware attacks, the ability to have fast failover was also a critical consideration. CenCal needed the Windows solution to protect all the key applications running in a mixed (physical and virtual) environment including MS Exchange and SQL databases. They also required the data to be encrypted, both in transit and at rest. Another key requirement, given their history with tape backups, was the ability to meet more stringent RTO that was measured in minutes, not days.



CHALLENGES

- Quickly recover lost or deleted files in minutes, not days
- Protect their data and applications against potential ransomware attacks
- Centralize disparate data sources and platforms into one online target
- Scale their capacity on-the-fly as their data grows



With Infrascale Backup & Disaster Recovery, I can quickly recover lost, deleted, or even corrupted files in minutes vs. days and not have to rely on physical media. The time saving has been immeasurable”

- Martin Mitev, Senior Systems Administrator



CENCAL SOLUTION

The CenCal solution utilized Infrascale Backup & Disaster Recovery to combine a direct-to-cloud backup service and an onsite disaster-recovery appliance. This protects them from data loss and minimizes downtime caused by server outages, ransomware, or site wide disasters. Infrascale utilizes a 256-bit AES encryption of the data before transfer over a secured 256-bit SSL. With this solution, any disrupted device or devices can be spun up as a new virtual machine or to cloud, in the case that a local recovery point is not available. According to Martin Mirev, CenCals Sr. Systems Administrator: “One of the great features of the Infrascale solution is the ability to scale with no disruption to our business, applications or the data protection process.”

The table below recaps some of the key considerations of moving from tape to DRaaS as their data protection methodology.

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- Martin Mitev, Senior Systems Administrator, CenCal

FEATURE	TAPE BACKUP	DRaaS
Method	Tape Backup (D2T)	DRaaS (D2D2C)
Full Site RTO	3+ Days	<1 hour
Full System Recovery Time	1+ Days	Minutes
Granular Restores	4+ Hours	Minutes
Restore Reliability	Failure rates approaching 50%	> 0%
Test Recovery Time	Days	Minutes
Protection Type	Data-loss	Downtime & Data-loss
Optimized	Servers, Files, Baremetal	Servers & workstations - Files, Applications, Baremetal, Live-BMR
Discovery	Days	Minutes
Deduplication	Not Included	Included
Onsite Storage	Manually managed tape library	Infrascale Appliance
Offsite Storage	Manual	Automatic
Offsite Growth	Offsite facility	Infrascale’s Cloud
Scalable Growth	Heavier on-prem investment	More Cloud
Enhanced Security	Enterprise-grade, cumbersome	Enterprise-grade, automatic
Deployment	Cumbersome (human intensive)	Easy
Cross Platform Support	Licensing required	Included
Retention Management	Manual	Automatic
Recovery Requirements	Suitably Sized and Configured Hardware	None (to cloud)
Capital Expense	Tape, Tape Drives, Software	None

RESULTS

“I have been able to spin up a virtual machine on my Infrascale appliance and have been able to recover files from that server in under ten minutes. I can also recover an entire virtual machine back to my environment in under an hour. I like the user interface, the flexibility of the appliance and the completeness of the solution. The Infrascale product just works. It’s the ideal solution.”

Martin Mitev, Senior Systems Administrator, CenCal.

About Us

Founded in 2011, Infrascale provides comprehensive, cloud-based data protection by delivering industry leading backup and disaster recovery solutions. Combining intelligent software with the power of the cloud, Infrascale™ removes the barriers and complexity of secure, offsite data storage, and standby infrastructure for realtime disaster recovery. Trusted and recommended by leading independent industry experts, Infrascale™ equips its customers with the confidence to handle the unexpected by providing greater availability, better security, and less downtime, when it comes to their data.

SCHEDULE 15 MINUTE CALL