DELLEMC

TOP SCORES FOR DATA PROTECTION AT COLLEGE

Collège Boréal deploys an integrated backup and recovery solution to slash backup times, hardware and IT support costs while providing simplified, intelligent backup administration

COLLÈGE BORÉAL
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Business needs

Reliable, uninterrupted access to data at 42 campus locations in 28 cities is essential to operations running smoothly at Collège Boréal. When rapid virtualization led to growing backup windows and IT support costs, Collège Boréal sought an integrated data protection solution that would dramatically improve backup speeds and efficiency.

Solutions at a glance

- Dell EMC Integrated Data Protection Appliance

Business results

- Data deduplication reduces 20.5 terabytes to 95.7 gigabytes—a compression factor of 219%

- Slashes backup time from 5 hours to 2

- 30% reduction in data center rack units for backup

- Decreases power consumption and related costs

- Deploys integrated solution in 2½ days versus at least 3 weeks

- Massive efficiency gains future-proof backup infrastructure

"Data deduplication and backup speeds have been phenomenal with Dell EMC's Integrated Data Protection Appliance (IDPA). We back up 99 percent less data, so we require less storage and network bandwidth."

Benoit Bonin
IT Director, Collège Boréal

With 42 campus sites in 28 cities across Ontario, Canada, Collège Boréal views 24x7 access to student, financial and administrative files as vital to smooth operations.

When the French-language college of applied arts and technology rapidly virtualized its infrastructure, the need for fast, frequent snapshots of virtual machines (VMs) increased. Further, night-time backup windows were growing and threatening to bleed into daytime hours. Its IBM Spectrum Protection system also burdened the small IT staff with labor-intensive tasks and rising support costs.

Benoit Bonin, IT director at Collège Boréal, considered new IBM data protection offerings but soon identified the Dell EMC Integrated Data Protection Appliance (IDPA) backup and recovery solution as ideal.

Dell EMC IDPA is installed in a major campus location and is replicated to another IDPA at a recovery site. Workloads protected by IDPA include a custom-built student information system that stores records for students, registrar offices, and human resources, as well as Microsoft SQL Server, Microsoft SharePoint, and Microsoft Dynamics financial management solutions.

Data dedupe slashes backup times and costs

When IDPA data deduplication kicked in, the results were startling. Dell EMC Data Protection reduced 20.5 terabytes to 95.7 gigabytes—a compression factor of 219 percent. Collège Boréal now is completing backups in two hours instead of five hours.

"Data deduplication and backup speeds have been phenomenal with Dell EMC," Bonin says. "We back up 99 percent less data, so we require less storage and network bandwidth. That alone contributes to significant cost savings. Plus, we've reduced our backup time by 60 percent even while adding replication of backup data to our remote site. And since we're now ingesting data faster than our network and servers can keep up with, IDPA has future-proofed our backup infrastructure for the next several years."

In addition, the compact, high-efficiency IDPA solution reduced data center rack units for backup by 30 percent. With less hardware, power consumption and related costs have also decreased.
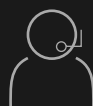
Ready, set, go in 2½ days

As a converged solution, Dell EMC IDPA data protection has streamlined deployment and administration. "IDPA makes the headaches disappear because it's a fully pre-engineered, pretested solution," explains Bonin. "Time and cost would have been astronomical if we did the integration on our own. We would have needed at least three weeks to get into production versus the two and a half days it took with IDPA."

IT also appreciates the easy-to-use IDPA interface that provides a single pane of glass to a geographically dispersed infrastructure, according to Bonin. "My staff hasn't even needed to use the Dell EMC training credits yet. IDPA is that intuitive and user-friendly."

Bonin concludes, "IDPA is an enterprise-class solution that provides one stop for easy-to-use, reliable and high-speed backup. That's invaluable to us."

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