

Hunt Personnel implements Cloud Replication Service

Summary

COMPANY

Founded in 1967, Hunt Personnel is a successful Canadian recruitment and employment agency with offices and franchises in major cities across Canada.

CHALLENGE

With its tape-based, on-site backup system no longer sufficient, Hunt needed a server replication solution that could deliver maximum information security, enhanced business continuity and comprehensive disaster recovery capability.

SOLUTION

Hunt now has Allstream's Cloud Replication Service for one server. This is the starting point for a larger replication project that will see all data and applications replicated through Allstream's Cloud rather than on costly physical servers.

OUTCOMES

- Improved disaster recovery posture with all information backed up offsite
- Mitigated risk of major financial impact due to core server data loss event
- Maximized security for replicated employee and client data
- Saved costs by substantially reducing server and IT hardware investment
- Freed IT staff to work on core maintenance activities as necessary by switching users to cloud servers

Business Challenge

In the personnel and recruitment business, continuous access to information stores and core applications is a critical success factor. As Hunt Personnel's database and application platform continued to expand, the company realized that its existing, on-site tape storage solution was no longer sufficient. If its central facilities went down with a major data loss or other technological disruption, business could come to a standstill. Hunt needed to be

sure that, if a major event occurred, its branch offices could still access data and applications and continue working, and that employees could easily work from home as well. With a basic knowledge of the business continuity advantages that cloud server replication could provide, Hunt began searching for a cloud solution – with a strong emphasis on information security, system reliability and disaster recovery capabilities.

Solution

Although Allstream was not Hunt's existing communications provider, Hunt was aware of and interested in Allstream's Cloud Replication Service. Following a highly successful Allstream presentation outlining capabilities and costs, Hunt decided to move ahead with the project. "Ultimately, it was their professional presentation and price point. They're also a recognized Canadian leader," says Jacques Cadoch, Hunt's Canadian controller and director of IT services. "Our main concern, as an agency dealing with confidential employee and client information, was cloud security. Allstream demonstrated that a properly implemented cloud-based system offers ample security, and we're satisfied that's the case."

Hunt now has Allstream's Cloud Replication Service for one server, which is the starting point for a larger intended

project. "We're almost through the initial process of replicating our entire Microsoft Exchange server into the cloud," says Cadoch. "Once this is done, we have other major environments to replicate." Eventually, he hopes to extend the cloud solution across the Canadian network, providing the ability to replicate all data – plus all communications, e-mail, applications – via Allstream's Cloud Replication Service at a fraction of the cost-per-month of replicating on physical servers.

"I'm happy with the way things are going," concludes Cadoch. "It's taking some time, but we want to go slowly and ensure there are no mistakes. Once the initial set-up and implementation is finished, the ongoing replication process should be simple. And we'll have the ability to take the project more quickly through the next phases."



“Allstream’s technical staff worked very closely with our people to make this project happen. They solved a lot of technical problems and were highly knowledgeable and professional.”

Jacques Cadoch
Controller (Canada) & Director IT services,
Hunt Management Synergy group inc.

Business Outcomes

With Allstream’s Cloud Replication Service in place, Hunt Personnel has been able to:

- Improve its disaster recovery posture as all information and applications are backed up offsite
 - Mitigate risk and achieve peace of mind that data loss on core servers would not result in major business disruption or loss
 - Provide maximum security for replicated personal data, improving client confidence and its security profile as a public company
- Save costs by reducing hardware investment substantially and leveraging a cost-effective solution
 - Free IT staff to work on core maintenance and application updates as necessary by switching users to cloud servers
 - Reduce carbon footprint by minimizing physical resources and related power consumption
 - Better integrate its overall IT platform and pave the way for future cloud replication projects across its network
 - Improve network information access continuity for mobile workforce

About Allstream

Allstream is a leading national communications provider that works exclusively with businesses of all sizes. An industry leader in delivering innovation, Allstream is focused on unifying and elevating all the ways that businesses connect and collaborate to serve customers, to drive workforce and partner productivity, and to get payback on networking and IT resources. Headquartered in Toronto, Allstream leverages the entrepreneurial spirit and skills of 2,600 employees across Canada. Our portfolio features advanced capabilities including: network connectivity and infrastructure, managed network services, and unified communications solutions. Our portfolio is provided across an extensive national broadband fibre optic network that spans some 30,000 km. We supply international connections through strategic partnerships and interconnection agreements.

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