## Burton & South Derbyshire College

Burton & South Derbyshire College has been offering a wide range of quality courses for over 60 years. With main campuses in Burton on Trent and Swadlincote, along with an active partnership with St George's Park, the FA's new National Football Centre, BSDC is expanding its offering to a base of 9000 students.

## The Challenge

When Cristie first met the College, they were utilising a legacy storage, backup & virtualisation that pre-dated Ian Robinson, Network and IT Manager for BSDC, "Our backup solution was old and unreliable, and the virtualisation solution didn't have the capacity or performance to cope with additional load." This load would have come in the form of the physical servers that Ian and his team planned to virtualise. It required a change of strategy, one that could cope with the users' desire to keep everything forever.

## The Solution

After initial engagements with suppliers and the completion of a Capacity Planning Assessment, the College came up with a list of requirements for a new Storage, Virtualisation & Backup solution, which was then issued to OJEU to meet purchasing regulations.

After shortlisting and conducting clarification interviews, Cristie were chosen as the preferred supplier for the project, based on the clarity of the proposal, functionality of the solution and value offered.

The solution consisted of a new virtualisation layer, based on VMware vSphere 5, Nimble Storage and Arcserve.

"Our approach considered the requirements of the College and also their desire to simplify the process of managing the infrastructure. We wanted something that could give the College what they needed with the flexibility to scale performance and capacity

### Challenges

- Legacy, inherited Infrastructure
- Old, unreliable backups
- Improve DR & Automate as much as possible
- Virtualise remaining physical machines

### Solution

- Two Nimble CS240 Arrays in a replicated configuration
- Arcserve – RPO Per Socket
- VMware vSphere 5 Enterprise
- Dell R620 Hosts

### Benefits

- 3-4hrs admin time per day saved
- Up to 2.37:1 compression
- Simplified management
- Improved visibility of data change rates, growth

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## Storage / Virtualisation
## Backup / Recovery / Protection

independently" said Ian Curry, Business Development Manager at Cristie Data.

Nimble Storage can be scaled by adding additional controller cache for compute performance, additional SSD cache for workload performance or expansion shelves for capacity requirements; whilst Arcserve has been licensed on a 'per-socket' basis to allow flexibility and simplicity when backing up virtual machines.

## The Benefits

This modernisation of the College's data storage provision has improved the stability of systems and the reliability of backups. Tape has been eliminated from the backup environment and a combination of Nimble's efficient snapshots and Arcserve Backup ensure the College can recover data more quickly, with a significantly improved RPO.

Ian and the team have seen admin savings of 3-4 hours per day from the backups alone, along with great efficiencies in the time to provision storage and create protection policies:

"We are storing 7 days of snapshots for all systems and are consuming only 638GB of capacity on the 35TB Nimble CS240, which is even better than I expected" commented Ian Robinson, Network and IT Manager, BSDC.

Setting SLA's for data protection within the College was important, so systems have been classified as High, Medium or Low, with 3, 2 or 1 snapshots per day respectively. This means that the most critical systems can be recovered to a much more granular level than previously possible.

Support and maintenance was also of high importance for BSDC, with the Nimble Auto-Support and Infosight platforms playing a key part in the decision making. This tool will also help the College to understand the rate of data change and the types of data that are demanding the most resource.

"Cristie proactively support all our customers, using tools like InfoSight and AutoSupport, which give us advance warning of any issue and allows us to suggest suitable remedies before problems occur." said Steve Blakemore, Technical Director at Cristie Data.

## The Future

The solution meets the current capacity and performance requirements, but Ian is realistic about growth: "You don't know what is around the corner, but I know I can easily scale this solution without reaching the limits of any element. Growth has become more predictable through Infosight and that makes it easier to budget."

"We wanted something that could give the College what they needed with the flexibility to scale performance and capacity independently" Ian Curry, Business Development Manager, Cristie Data Ltd.

## • About Nimble Storage

Nimble's flash storage solutions enable the consolidation of all workloads and eliminate storage silos by providing enterprises with significant improvements in application performance and storage capacity. At the same time, Nimble delivers superior data protection, while simplifying business operations and lowering costs. More than 9,000 enterprises, governments, and service providers have deployed Nimble's flash storage solutions across more than 50 countries.**www.arcserve.com**

## • About Cristie Data

Cristie Data have been IT infrastructure and data management specialists for over 40 years. We take a consultative and platform agnostic approach to any customer project and advise on solutions that are best aligned to your businesses. **www.cristie.co.uk**