

• Solihull School

Founded in 1560, and on their present site since 1882, Solihull School is a leading, co-educational, independent day school. Solihull School pride themselves on ensuring that all pupils realise their full potential. Their central aim is to provide for every pupil as rich a life as possible so the School fosters fulfilment, happiness and success; a preparation for life as a good adult in society. Teaching is excellent and their examination results speak volumes about the progress that their pupils make in their studies.

• Difficulties with Archiving

For many years Solihull School had been backing up their data with Arcserve Backup r17, a traditional tape backup software solution, but the School's IT team were becoming increasingly aware that this system was not working that well for them. They had outgrown the traditional tape based backup technology, backups were much bigger than they needed to be and tape management was very resource intensive. Additionally, long term archiving of data backups was proving to be a challenge and they also had to be very selective when configuring backups - it just wasn't always possible to backup large data files such as video and images, due to the performance of the existing system.

• Committed to Arcserve

The School were already aware of Cristie Data, having worked with them in the past. Cristie had supplied their Nexsan disk based storage systems and they'd found Cristie's support and expertise on these systems to be excellent. Over time, a strong relationship had developed between the two companies. Cristie suggested the School take a look at Arcserve's latest backup technology, Unified Data Protection (UDP), which would give them a lot more in terms of performance, storage efficiency and functionality.



SOLIHULL

Challenges

- Inconsistent and time consuming backups
- Backups were much bigger than they needed to be and taking up too many tapes
- Slow data recovery
- Had to be very selective on what data was backed up

Solution

- Arcserve UDP

Benefits

- Easy to adopt and implement
- Ability to backup all data
- 30TB of data now protected, which only takes up 7TB of space
- Superb, on-going technical support, working relationship and after-sales care with Cristie



cristie data
an iomart company

Storage / Virtualisation
Backup / Recovery / Protection

The School decided to try Arcserve UDP and asked Cristie to carry out the implementation. Cristie gathered all of the pre-install information they required and then carried out a site visit to install UDP, get it configured and get the backups running. Everything was completed in a day, and the implementation went very smoothly without any problems.

• Real Benefits with UDP

Since installing Arcserve UDP the School now doesn't need to be so selective on what data gets backed up and when. After the first full backup, UDP backs up block level changes, with source-side data deduplication. This means the amount of data backed up each night is far less than with the file level backups done previously, which has enabled the School to protect significantly more data, with no increase in backup times.

The School is now able to protect 30TB of production data, with 3 recovery points stored on disk, using only 7TB of backup disk storage. Archives now happen every month, and the School have found UDP to be a really reliable and well featured product, especially for disaster recovery.

"With UDP we've managed to get the backup size down to a really good level for us," commented Lee Richardson, Server Manager (ICT) at Solihull School. "We can archive off our data a lot easier and we can now backup much more data than we could previously."

Restoration times are very much improved as the School can hold a lot more data on disk based backup storage, this means restores don't have to be taken from tape. "We had to go back to tape once before to retrieve data, and it took forever," continues Richardson. "Now, everything is much quicker with UDP. We've recently moved data from our standalone HyperV's into a cluster and that plugs directly into UDP, so we're backing up even more data, including all of our HyperV's. It's excellent, we've never been able

to backup this much data. Arcserve UDP is so fast and so reliable."

• First Class Support

The School are also really impressed with the support they've received, both from Cristie and from Arcserve. "Any problems we've had, we've contacted Cristie and they've been really knowledgeable and really helped us out," explains Richardson. "Cristie give us a timeframe and if they are unsure of anything themselves, they've put us directly in contact with Arcserve who have been very responsive. And if we need any new components or anything else delivered, it always arrives the next day - I can't fault that."

"Arcserve UDP is a brilliant product and was the perfect solution for Solihull School," concludes Ian Curry, Business Development Manager at Cristie Data. "We have numerous customers in the UK who are seeing the benefits from UDP. It's simple to use, fast and reliable. We feel it's one of the best backup solutions in the marketplace today."

• About Arcserve

Arcserve provides organisations with the assurance that they can recover their data and applications when needed. Founded in 1990, Arcserve provides a comprehensive solution for virtual and physical environments, on premise or in the cloud, backed by unsurpassed support and expertise. Arcserve has an active customer base of 43,000 end users in more than 150 countries through 7,500 distributors, resellers, and service providers around the world.

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