Hurricane-proof data protection keeps patient data safe

Halifax Health secures reliable access to clinical applications with faster, more efficient replication and recovery of virtual environment.

Business needs
At Halifax Health, patient care is a 24x7 commitment. When the healthcare provider’s data growth rate increased to 15–25% annually, IT grew concerned that its prior solutions would be unable to ensure fast recovery of clinical applications and virtual machines.

Solutions at a glance
- Dell EMC RecoverPoint for Virtual Machines
- Dell EMC Data Domain
- Dell EMC Data Domain Boost for Enterprise Applications
- Dell EMC Data Protection Software

Business results
- Replication of 1,500 VMs keeps patient data safe during hurricanes
- Reduced costs due to streamlining replication and recovery tasks
- 50x data dedupe rate helps shorten backup times from 24 to 6 hours
- Improved RPO from 8 to 2 hours

Backup administrative time decreased
25%

Cut recovery of virtual infrastructure from 24 to
2 hours
Halifax Health, the largest healthcare network serving the Daytona Beach, Florida, area, understands that fast, reliable access to patient data is vital to 24x7 patient care. When high-resolution medical images increased data analytics and additional regulations drove up its data growth rate by 15–25% annually, Halifax Health’s previous protection solutions struggled to replicate and back up the environment in less than 24 hours.

To improve protection, Halifax Health deployed Dell EMC RecoverPoint for Virtual Machines and Dell EMC Data Protection Software to replicate 1,500 VMware virtual machines (VMs) to a disaster recovery site. Halifax Health uses Dell EMC Data Domain Boost for Enterprise Applications and Data Protection Software to back up to Dell EMC Data Domain appliances.

In the Halifax Health environment, Dell EMC protects 500 terabytes of data and numerous clinical and enterprise applications and databases, including MEDITECH, Oracle and Microsoft SQL Server.

Hurricane-proof data protection

With RecoverPoint for Virtual Machines, Halifax Health improved its recovery point objective (RPO) of applications and data from 8 to 2 hours.

Tom Stafford, VP and CIO of Halifax Health, says, “RecoverPoint for Virtual Machines re-hydrates data and recovers VMs simultaneously. We recover our infrastructure in 2 hours instead of 24 hours.”

“Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Irma hit our region 11 months apart,” Stafford reflects. “Knowing we can recover our electronic medical records if one of our data centers goes out helps me sleep better.”

Because RecoverPoint for Virtual Machines and Data Protection Software streamline replication and recovery, Stafford reassigned full-time equivalents (FTEs) to other tasks. As a result, costs were reduced.

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**50x data dedupe speeds backups**

Dell EMC Data Domain and Data Protection Software deliver a data deduplication rate of up to 50x, enabling faster backups.

“With Dell EMC Data Protection Software, we reduced our backup time from 24 to 6 hours, which is huge,” explains Stafford. “By backing up four times a day, we can restore faster and reduce risk of data loss.”

In addition, efficiency has been boosted by Data Protection Software. For example, a storage administrator reduced time spent on backups to 25 percent.

**Doing operational stability right**

Stafford believes choosing the right IT partner can influence successful outcomes. “We value a strong partner like Dell EMC providing us with our virtualization, data protection and storage solutions. Whatever the solution, we talk to the same technician and know we’ll get great support because it’s Dell EMC.”

He adds, “Dell EMC gives me confidence we’re doing the right things to safeguard patient data and achieve operational stability.”