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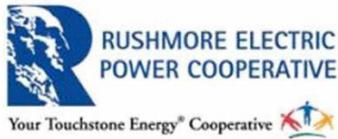
Power distributor lights up data protection efficiency

Rushmore Electric powers data management with scale-out flexibility, reduced capex and operational savings

RUSHMORE ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Electricity Distribution | United States

Business needs

At Rushmore Electric, keeping electricity flowing and critical databases running go hand in hand. With business expansion driving rapid data growth, the power distributor sought to implement a next-generation data management solution that would enable scale-out and scale-up agility and lower costs.
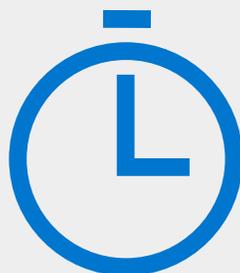
Solutions at a glance

- Dell EMC PowerProtect X400 Appliance
- Dell EMC PowerProtect Software

Business results

- Just 4 clicks to set up backup instead of 30 clicks
- Avoids forklift upgrades—savings of $100,000 annually

- IT freed up to work on higher-value projects
- Backup troubleshooting time cut from 3 hours to 15 minutes

Instant restore recovers virtual SQL Server database in under

2 min.

Exchange backups completed

3x

faster

Pressure is on at Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative. The company supplies electricity to eight rural electric cooperatives serving 56,000 customers in South Dakota. Rushmore Electric also supplies 21 power cooperatives and agencies with GIS mapping and eight power cooperatives with engineering services, as well as data backups and email.

With business expanding and increasing demand for engineering services, Rushmore Electric needs to maximize efficiency even as data grows at 10 percent annually. That's why Sean Crooks, systems administrator at Rushmore Electric, was thrilled to deploy Dell EMC PowerProtect X400 Appliance, a software-defined data management solution for protecting, managing and recovering data at scale.

Integrated with PowerProtect Software, the X400 Appliance was implemented to protect the company's file servers, Microsoft Exchange, and SQL Server databases for GIS maps of infrastructure elements such as grids, power poles, transformers, residential meters and more. Rushmore Electric's PowerProtect environment is virtualized with more than 80 VMware vCenter virtual machines (VMs).

Time to manage backups slashed

A long-time satisfied user of Dell EMC data protection solutions, Crooks was pleased that the PowerProtect X400 Appliance delivered significant improvements. He says, "The simple PowerProtect user interface is much easier to use. I can set up a backup in 4 clicks instead of clicking 30 times with our legacy backup system. With instant restore, I can recover a virtual SQL Server database, extract some table data, and put it back in the database in under 2 minutes and without any issues."

Crooks continues, "The PowerProtect dashboard shows everything at a glance, so I don't have to examine the status of each backup job. If a backup fails, it only takes me 15 minutes to troubleshoot, versus 3 hours. It really is a set-it-and-forget-it solution."

Better performance also has wowed Crooks. PowerProtect backs up 1 terabyte of Rushmore Electric's Microsoft Exchange environment in 2 hours compared to 6 hours previously.

Self-service backups help engineers and IT

Serving on a two-person IT team, Crooks places high value on the solution's self-service capabilities. "The engineers love running their database backups whenever they want to test something," he explains. "PowerProtect is so easy to use I can see letting the member cooperatives do their own ad hoc backups or restores when they accidentally delete data. That alone would eliminate dozens of support calls each month and give me more time to dedicate to high-value projects."

PowerProtect can help Rushmore Electric deliver around-the-clock electricity while more efficiently managing fast-growing data.

Crooks reflects, "With unmatched data deduplication, PowerProtect provides peace of mind that we won't have an issue with any amount of data we throw at it as our data continues to grow immensely. The easy scale-out and scale-up capabilities that PowerProtect provides can help us avoid forklift upgrades and instead incrementally add space. That's a savings of over $110,000 a year."

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