Case Study

Georgia Tech Athletics Department Upgrades to Asigra, Resulting in Backup Time Savings and Perfect Compliance Ratings

- Athletic association sponsoring varsity intercollegiate athletics competition in 17 sports

- Hybrid Cloud Backup Deployment including servers workstations and laptops

- 100% compliance rating achieved for more than 8 years

GeorgiaInstitute**of Tech**nology®

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Summary

Georgia Tech's Athletics Department historically relied on in-house tape-based backup to protect data across multiple servers and systems that served hundreds of users. As sponsor of one of the oldest NCAA Division 1 intercollegiate athletics programs in the country, the department needed to ensure security of its key data, from the scoreboard to the stats reported after games, as well as critical data required to run the Athletics Department itself. Yet Georgia Tech realized that its tape-based system was unpredictable, unstable, and insufficient after an IT server went out during the Olympics, resulting in data loss when tape backup failed to restore key data. Other shortcomings of the tape-based system included limited space to store tapes onsite, and the fact that IT staff needed to be available to change the tapes often, which strained the IT department's resources. These reasons combined with the consultative support by RestorePoint, a provider of disaster recovery and backup services powered by Asigra, precipitated the firm's move toward a cloud-based data protection platform.

Customer Overview

The Athletics Department at Georgia Tech is a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) and has 13 Division 1 sports programs. Georgia Tech's National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) Division 1 intercollegiate athletics program is one of the oldest and most renowned in the United States. Intercollegiate varsity sports sponsored by the Georgia Tech Athletic Association include football, basketball, baseball, golf, tennis, track, and cross country for men and basketball, softball, tennis, track, and cross country for women, among other sports. Georgia Tech additionally offers an array of intramural sports for the larger student body to enjoy year-round competition.

With nearly 600 system users on multiple file and email servers, as well as ticketing and accounting systems that need support and connection to the main campus IT infrastructure, the Athletics Department at Georgia Tech needed a reliable data-protection system. Yet the department was using tape backup and housing all data onsite, which led to growing concerns about in-house storage. The tape-based system also strained the IT department's time and resources because of the need for manual management of the tapes—as well as hardware and software—in house. After a key IT server went down during the Olympics and their tape backup system failed to restore the data smoothly resulting in data loss, it became clear that the Athletics Department needed a more efficient and reliable system for data backup—as well as a secure offsite source for storage in case of another disaster.

Business Situation

Prior to 2006, tape backup had been the primary data protection technology for all servers and systems within Georgia Tech's Athletics Department. Yet as the department supported nearly 600 system users across multiple systems that required support and connection to the main campus IT infrastructure, the manual process of keeping up with the expanding storage requirements in house became difficult and time-consuming to manage. In addition to needing to find sufficient space to store the tapes, IT staff constantly had to manually change the tapes, creating inefficiencies. After an IT server went down during the Olympics and the department's tape backup system failed to provide sufficient backup to restore the data, Georgia Tech began researching a secure offsite storage solution.

The Athletics Department considered Symantec Backup Exec, Windows backup, and several other systems, but rejected these options because of the need to continuously upgrade to the latest versions that were compatible with the department's current software. Determined to simplify their data center environment, Georgia selected IT services provider RestorePoint to deploy a cloud-based data recovery solution. RestorePoint is an innovative services company that provides data protection and disaster recovery solutions for critical customer data. By offering dramatically faster and more reliable recoveries, the new backup solution from RestorePoint promised to free up stretched IT resources and offer significant cost savings for data protection.

Georgia Tech Athletics Department Upgrades to Asigra, Resulting in Backup Time Savings and Perfect Compliance Ratings

*"*RestorePoint takes ownership when there is a problem and tries to solve the issue before we even know there is anything wrong. With the RestorePoint-Asigra solution, we now have a true disaster recovery plan.*"*

Anthony Bridges, Director of Information Technology
Georgia Tech Athletics Department

Solution

RestorePoint's cloud backup service was deployed in a hybrid configuration without agents across Georgia Tech's distributed enterprise. The solution is powered by Asigra software, the industry's leading agentless cloud-based data recovery software with over one million installations worldwide.

The agentless software is built for efficient operation and easily integrates with public, private, and hybrid cloud architectures. Georgia Tech highlighted the following capabilities as key factors for selecting the solution:

- Simple, centralized backup that eliminates the need for multiple point solutions

- Highly scalable design that expands as the department's needs require

- Device agnostic support for a wide range of computing systems

- Ability to reduce the cost of backup using Asigra's policy-based Backup Lifecycle Management (BLM) function which provides long term archival storage of backup data

- NIST FIPS 140-2 certified security with AES-256 encryption in-flight and at-rest.

Another key feature of the solution that Georgia Tech valued was its ability to satisfy compliance requirements. Each year, the state of Georgia conducts an audit of the department, and because of the services provided by the RestorePoint-Asigra solution, the department has received a 100 percent compliance rating on the audit each year since implementing the solution eight years ago.

ENVIRONMENT

- Widely distributed IT environment that supports nearly 600 system users

- Multiple file and email servers—and ticketing and accounting systems—that need support and connection to the main campus IT infrastructure

- Diverse range of systems under protection, including servers, workstations and laptops

- Hybrid cloud backup deployment with both high performance local recovery and remote disaster recovery capabilities.

ASIGRA CLOUD-BASED DATA RECOVERY DELIVERS

- Single integrated solution for all data protection needs

- Policy-based protection based on the user's IT environment and recovery requirements

- Ability to transition internal IT resources to more strategic operations

- Data encryption that secures data in-flight and at-rest

- High-performance data recovery compared to tape.

"Thanks to RestorePoint, we were able to get rid of all onsite tapes and now have the security provided by offsite data storage. We need less manpower to monitor backups, so the IT department is able to spend more time on other issues and not have to worry about the backups."

Anthony Bridges, Director of Information Technology
Georgia Tech Athletics Department

Results

As a long-time user of the cloud-based data protection solution delivered by RestorePoint, Georgia Tech is very satisfied with the results. Now in its eighth year of deployment, the new system continues to run smoothly across the department's multiple servers and systems that require support and connection to the main campus IT infrastructure.

Georgia Tech Athletics Department has realized significant benefits by making the transition from tape to the cloud for data protection. In addition to its perfect annual compliance scores based on state-run audits, the department has experienced significant time savings, with manual handling of tape by IT staff no longer required. The company also now enjoys more efficient integrated recoveries and enhanced data security with offsite backups.

"With RestorePoint data protection services powered by Asigra, the Georgia Tech Athletics Department enjoys a much higher level of confidence in knowing its data is secure across its sphere of operations. This assurance coupled with the significant offload of time consuming backup processes has improved the organization's readiness and productivity."

Abdul Altamimi, CTO and Founder,
RestorePoint

About Asigra

Trusted since 1986, Asigra Tigris is a multi award winning backup and recovery technology proudly developed and supported in North America, providing organizations around the world the ability to quickly recover their data from anywhere through a global network of IT service providers. As the industry's most comprehensive data protection platform for servers, virtual machines, endpoint devices, databases and applications, SaaS and IaaS based applications, Asigra lowers the total cost of ownership, reduces recovery time objectives, and eliminates silos of backup data by providing a single consolidated repository with 100% recovery assurance and antiransomware defense.

More information on Asigra can be found at www.asigra.com