

# Acronis Files Advanced Provides Green Solution to Top-Ranked University

University of East Anglia reduces waste and expands accessibility with Acronis-secured iPads

## BUSINESS CHALLENGES

The University of East Anglia, a top-ranked university in Norwich, UK, purchased iPads for some senior management teams in an effort to provide a more efficient workflow and significantly reduce the amount of paper generated by department meetings. While the iPads made remote email access and other browser-based tools easier, without on-device storage options the university couldn't offer a safe, secure way to access files from the iPads.

Because the secure file service in place did not support file access via mobile devices, the IT department needed to find a solution that would work within their existing infrastructure. The idea was not to replace the entire service to accommodate both desktop and mobile devices. However, no one knew of an enterprise solution that addressed their mobile file access issues.

To get around these issues, some employees used consumer solutions such as File Browser, Dropbox, Good Reader, and iCloud – or even started emailing documents to themselves. Yet none of these solutions provided the same level of security as one made for use within an enterprise. As a result, IT was tasked to find a solution that would enable employees to access files on the institution's server from their iPads securely, while maintaining the data control they needed, with options such as remote wipe if the device is lost.

## INDUSTRY

Education and Research

## KEY CHALLENGES

- Providing access to corporate data
- Enable employees to leverage the iPad's mobile capabilities with easy access to corporate files on the university's servers – without interfering with the university's existing infrastructure or security standards

## KEY BENEFITS

- Employees gained the ability to easily access their files on the university server using their iPads without compromising university security and privacy protocols
- No extra login credentials, passwords, or applications are required
- Use of paper for the university's senior staff has been significantly reduced as there is no longer a need to print extra documents for review in management meetings, at home or on the road – all can instead be accessed via the iPad

"It was a case of desperation," said Jon Woodley, Head of Systems for the University of East Anglia's Information Services Directorate. "We spent one evening searching the internet for recommendations and came across a magazine article reviewing Acronis Files Advanced. It was the only product that gave us a corporate solution – and one that would fit the needs of our employees as well as the IT department."

## THE SOLUTION

The trial implementation on 15 iPads was complete within a day, and no third parties were needed. "What makes this such a worthy investment is the application's ease of use and ease of installation," Woodley said. "Something that works with our core infrastructure right away is a breath of fresh air."

Woodley explained that staff members who have used Acronis Files Advanced are thrilled. "They love that it just works. The user can start the app and go straight to their files, just as they would with a desktop or laptop joined to our Active Directory. Nothing else in the market allows you to do that in such a transparent and easy manner," he added. "The university is now in the process of rolling out Acronis Files Advanced to 500 other users – to be completed by year's end." Users that had already been using consumer-oriented, browser-based file storage solutions such as Dropbox found that Acronis Files Advanced replaced those solutions in a very simple way. Good Reader and File Browser required re-configuring if changes were made to file server locations, but Acronis Files Advanced replaced them while ensuring that files could be accessed simply and easily, all without compromising university privacy and security standards.

## A GREEN ALTERNATIVE

Woodley and his colleague Iain Reeman, ICT Systems Director for the university's Information Services

Directorate, pointed out that in the past staff members had received a vast amount of paper communication. The university's decision to begin distributing iPads to senior staff was driven by the need to remove excess paper distribution whenever possible.

"We are a university known for its research into the environment, so anything we can do to be more environmentally conscious is looked upon very positively by university decision makers," said Woodley. By enabling

university staff to eschew printing out documents for review at home, on the road, or in a meeting, and to instead simply bring them up on the iPad, it also enables the university staff to live up to the institution's commitment to green practices."

"Our management team moved to iPads in order to create paperless meetings," said Reeman. "When we installed Acronis Files Advanced it enabled us to get secure file access, even in the middle of a meeting. I can pull up a document to reinforce or support an argument, which is

absolutely fantastic. Previously, if someone asked a question that required finding a reference document on the server, you'd have to get back to them later. Now I can look up the answer can give it straight away."

## ABOUT ACRONIS

Acronis sets the standard for [cyber protection](#) and [hybrid cloud storage](#) through its innovative [backup](#), [anti-ransomware](#), [disaster recovery](#), [storage](#), and [enterprise file sync and share solutions](#). Enhanced by [AI-based Active Protection technology](#), [blockchain-based authentication](#) and a unique [hybrid-cloud architecture](#), Acronis protects all data in any environment, including physical, virtual, cloud, mobile workloads and applications.

[Founded in Singapore in 2003](#), today the company is trusted by more than 5 million consumers and 500,000 businesses worldwide, including [79 of the top 100 most valuable brands](#).

*"Acronis is revolutionary:  
it enables the iPad to  
be used in a corporate  
landscape"*

**Iain Reeman,  
ICT Systems Director**