

Nation's third largest credit union protects servers with **Acronis**

Pentagon Federal Credit Union cuts recovery time in half with "set and forget" reliability of Acronis Backup Advanced

BUSINESS BACKGROUND

Pentagon Federal Credit Union is the United States' third largest credit union, with over \$14.5 billion in assets and nearly one million members.

Its core membership includes military and civilian members of the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Defense, defense-related companies, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Red Cross employees around the world.

MANUAL ADMINISTRATION EXTENDED STAFF HOURS

In 2005, the institution faced the challenge of protecting a growing number of line-of-business applications running on an expanding number of servers. An existing manual imaging solution required administrators to take each server off-line for backups, an increasingly untenable situation.

The limitations of manual imaging spilled into day-to-day administration, according to Lance Auman, Systems Integration Manager. Application and server updates and backups of critical servers required someone to be on-site during off-peak hours.

Recoveries took time too. If a server failed, the recovery had to be manually carried out from a boot image. "We needed something more automated that would reduce the time we were spending on administration," Auman says.

INDUSTRY

Financial services, Banking

KEY CHALLENGES

- Speed server recoveries
- Reduce administration overhead
- Eliminate the need for expensive duplicate hardware

ENVIRONMENT

- 70+ physical and virtual servers with data storage on high-speed virtual tape libraries
- Broad variety of financial service applications
- Local and remote sites, offline archive

SOLUTIONS

- Acronis Backup Advanced for Windows Servers
- Acronis Backup Advanced for VMware
- Acronis Universal Restore

BENEFITS

- Server recovery times cut by an average of 50 percent or more
- Increased confidence of successful recoveries to 100 percent
- Set and forget scheduling for backups frees administrators for other tasks
- Migrations among physical and virtual servers simplified with Acronis Universal Restore

EASE OF USE ATTRACTS ATTENTION

PenFed's IT team concluded that Acronis could bring automation to backup tasks, eliminating long nights and many weekend activities. But, Acronis had to pass a final test: user friendliness. They assigned a junior engineer to carry out a full install of the Acronis software, which was a success.

"That confirmed how usable and supportable the product was," Auman says. Today, PenFed owns licenses to Acronis Backup Advanced for Windows and VMware to protect both physical and virtual servers. Acronis protects the system drive and critical applications while data is generally restored through high-speed virtual tape libraries. "If we ever have a server problem, we don't have to search for the latest image and hope it works; it's at hand and we know it's good," Auman says.

"Acronis gives us a hardware-agnostic flexibility, so we can restore the C: drive and Windows operating system anywhere we like," Auman points out. Acronis also enables more proactive upgrades and IT work without inflating the budget. "We know servers are protected."

"Whenever we install a new, critical application we buy an Acronis license to protect it."

"With Acronis, our recovery time is cut by an average of 50 percent. We can restore systems anywhere we like and know our servers are protected."

**Lance Auman, Systems
Integration Manager**

"IT'S ALL ABOUT RTO"

Auman credits Acronis live imaging technology and Acronis Universal Restore for cutting repetitive administration tasks. "It's all about RTO (Recovery Time Objectives). Our recovery time is cut by an average of 50 percent. And it no longer matters what hardware we use to recover to. But, in addition to savings, one of the main benefits we get out of Acronis is pure sanity. We've been able to reduce weekend hours by 10 to 15 percent."

THE BEAUTY OF 'SET & FORGET'

Acronis is a 'set & forget' product. "That's the beauty of Acronis," Auman says. "We set policies and ignore it, knowing that we're protected all the time." Administrators can remotely launch and activate backups, and Acronis' imaging capability recovers systems in a fraction of the time and effort previously required. "In the past, we either had to reinstall an image of that machine on duplicate hardware or reinstall applications on a new machine from scratch. With Acronis Universal Restore, we can restore an image of another server on new hardware, give it new drivers, and walk 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](#).