

Granite Ridge Builders Protect Their Data from Ransomware with **Acronis**

Indiana Construction Business Avoids Catastrophic Malicious Attack with Acronis Backup Advanced and Private Cloud

BUSINESS SUMMARY

Granite Ridge Builders is a custom home builder serving northern Indiana. Being one of the largest home builders in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Granite Ridge Builders leads the way in building customized homes, offering its customers over 170 floor plans and the ability to customize each one to fit individual customer needs.

BUSINESS CHALLENGES

Granite Ridge Builders stored data in two locations but did not have a solid backup solution. This put the business at risk because CAD files and other intellectual property could be lost and this impacted worker productivity. The company understood that in today's digital world, data can be lost forever if it isn't properly protected.

Prior to selecting Acronis, the company protected its data using built-in operating system tools and manually copying files to basic cloud storage. Manual operations meant backups weren't performed on a regular basis. And the IT team could only back up data, leaving the server environment – operating system, applications, preferences, history, etc. — unprotected.

In January, 2016, the main RAID array on the company's server failed in the middle of the day. While operational data was safe, the virtual machines (VMs) were not fully backed up. As a result, it took IT a day to rebuild the server environments, leaving 110+ workers idly standing by while the machines were being recovered.

SECTOR

Construction

KEY CHALLENGES

- Reduce downtime and risks
- Protect intellectual property
- Recover from ransomware

KEY REQUIREMENTS

- Complete system backup
- Support of Microsoft Hyper-V®
- Ease of use
- Flexible storage support

IT INFRASTRUCTURE

- Microsoft Hyper-V host
- Four virtual machines (Windows Server® 2008)
- 110 users
- Key applications: AutoCAD®, Intuit QuickBooks®, Microsoft Office
- Microsoft Active Directory®, DNS, DHCP servers

KEY BENEFITS

- Complete, reliable bare-metal recovery
- Ease of protecting Hyper-V
- Automated backup onsite and offsite
- Ransomware and other malware protection

As a result, Granite Ridge Builders began looking for the bare-metal data protection solution that would protect all their data from natural disasters – such as fire or flood – and hardware failures. The company also required a solution that automated the back up of data residing on both on-site and off-site systems, and given the importance and volume of data residing on the VMs, the solution also had to support agentless backup of Hyper-V.

SOLUTION

Based on a recommendation from their preferred partner, CDW, Granite Ridge Builders selected Acronis Backup Advanced to meet both these needs with a comprehensive cyber protection suite. Their IT team installed the software on a Microsoft Hyper-V and backed up the VMs using agentless backup technology.

Due to the volume of CAD data – over 4TB – the company decided to store their data on Network Attached Storage (NAS) because backing up that volume to cloud storage would be time-consuming. Acronis Backup Advanced automatically backs up and stores the data at their primary site and with Acronis' backup replication feature, the data is also automatically replicated – at no additional cost – to their secondary site using their existing fiber and site-to-site VPN structure.

After the initial full backups are completed, the company runs incremental backups to the remote site, which take approximately four hours to complete.

Acronis Backup Advanced protected the company's data from a potentially devastating malware attack. In August 2016, the company fell victim to SMRSS32 ransomware, which encrypts a server's hard drive and

solicits the users to make an online payment in return for a decryption key. The attack targeted the accounting file server and demanded the company pay a hefty ransom or lose 17 years of data. Instead, the company's IT team erased the infected machine and restored from a backup. In less than a day, the accounting team was back in business, with no data lost and no ransom

paid. With regards to the ransomware attack, Jones went on to comment, "When the ransomware attacked our server, I viewed it more as an inconvenience rather than a catastrophic business event because I knew all of our data was protected."

Since that attack, Acronis has integrated its proven, artificial intelligence-based anti-ransomware defense into Acronis Backup Advanced. Actively detecting and stopping ransomware in real time, while automatically restoring any affected files, enhances Granite Ridge Builder's system with total cyber protection.

"The tight integration with Hyper-V makes Acronis Backup Advanced the best choice for easy and quick back up of virtual machines. Installation and configuration is easy. We simply referred to the included Help Document and with Acronis' live chat support, we were able to configure the backup tasks and complete the first few backups in no time."

**Justin Jones, IT Manager
at Granite Ridge Builder**

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](#).