



St. Peter's Hospital

EMC Avamar solution facilitates 100-percent reliability and regulatory compliance

A top-ranked national hospital, St. Peter's Health Care Services has grown into one of upstate New York's largest and most respected healthcare systems. At its core, St. Peter's Hospital is an organization with a strong reputation for superior medical technology, expert staff, and an unwavering commitment to compassionate patient care.

Problems meeting backup windows and rising administration costs for the backup process compelled St. Peter's Hospital to find a faster, more reliable, and easily scaled backup solution. It was determined that the best option was to replace its existing tape solution with disk.

Driven by expansion and regulatory compliance requirements, the hospital also needed to ensure uninterrupted operations and integrity of its data during a move into a new data center. There were concerns that older servers would not come back up after the shutdown and that data would be unrecoverable from existing backup on tape.

To secure the highest possible hospital ratings, it was imperative for St. Peter's Hospital to meet the standards set by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). The organization reviews the policies, procedures, and disaster recovery plans set by St. Peter's Health Care Services.

To satisfy these requirements, the hospital initiated a search for a more robust disk-based backup and restore solution as well as a disaster recovery solution. Out of all the solutions evaluated, EMC® Avamar®, from EMC Corporation, provided the best mix of reliability and economy. EMC worked with one of its regional channel partners, P & J Computers, to deliver these critical solutions to the hospital.

“Since deployment we have seen a noticeable reduction in our administrative overhead and we are confident that the overhead will continue to decrease,” says Curtis Damhof, Senior Network Administrator. “EMC Avamar solutions provide the efficiency needed to reduce excessive storage media, operational expenses, and tape storage hardware.”

Return on the hospital's EMC Avamar investment is expected within 12 months.

Efficient operations, policy management, and integrity

Today, the impact of lengthy tape backup processes and restoration failures is no longer an issue. EMC Avamar has enabled St. Peter's Hospital to improve productivity by reduc-

ing data recovery-time objectives because backups can now be performed during production hours—without impacting critical applications.

“EMC Avamar’s efficiency allows us to perform backups even during normal business hours, removing the requirement for a dedicated backup window,” says Damhof. “This increase in backups on selected critical servers provides multiple recovery points throughout the day, making it possible for our IT department to provide increased service levels.”

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In addition, EMC Avamar software provides an intuitive, policy-based management interface for organizing, monitoring, and automating data protection.

“The policy-based management capabilities of EMC Avamar allow us to efficiently, yet finely control various aspects of backup operations,” says Damhof. “As a course of regular operation, EMC Avamar also performs authenticity and integrity checks for all protected data sets, which means our IT department can be confident that data restores have 100-percent accuracy throughout their retention periods.”

Integrated and automated disaster recovery

Quickly and easily deployed to protect distributed and remote data stores, EMC Avamar technology also gives St. Peter’s Hospital the ability to replicate 1.5 terabytes of data from its primary site to a secondary site over existing networks.

“Replication is accomplished via highly efficient, asynchronous data transfers over IP, which can be scheduled during off-peak hours to make optimum use of our existing network bandwidth,” explains Damhof.

This state-of-the-art disaster recovery solution now provides the organization with an automated, lights-out business continuance solution, facilitating compliance with regulatory mandates.



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Customer Profile
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