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Baker Tilly gains rock-solid data protection to ensure responsive client services 24/7

BAKER TILLY | Professional services | United States

Business needs

As a top 15 full-service accounting and advisory firm, Baker Tilly understands the importance of supporting clients 24x7. That requires having critical applications, client account information, market data and financial documents available at all times.

Solutions at a glance

- Dell EMC Data Protection Suite
- Dell EMC Data Domain
- Dell EMC Data Domain Cloud Tier

Business results

- Enabled seamless adoption of cloud storage for long-term retention
- Centralized administration and reporting for on-premises and cloud storage

5hr
full nightly backups
reduced from 20-hour full weekly backups

Eliminated tape,
saving money on offsite storage

When leading professional services provider Baker Tilly merged with another firm, a challenge emerged. The firm previously had two separate backup solutions: Veritas NetBackup and Dell EMC Data Protection Suite — both running on Dell EMC Data Domain storage. This required consolidation to ensure reliable, consistent data protection. Ultimately, Baker Tilly chose to standardize its backup operations on Dell EMC Data Domain storage and Dell EMC Data Protection Suite, gaining substantially improved value from the combined solution.

Dana Weiner, Baker Tilly's senior IT engineer, explains, "What differentiated Dell EMC Data Protection software from NetBackup was its ease of use and deduplication technology."

Baker Tilly now uses using Dell EMC Data Protection software to back up Microsoft SQL Server and Microsoft Exchange databases, along with its VMware and Microsoft Hyper-V virtualized environments to Dell EMC Data Domain storage. Baker Tilly also uses the software to back up to Dell EMC Isilon scale-out storage and protect virtualized environments running in its remote offices.

For additional protection in the case of an onsite disaster, the firm replicates backups from its primary Data Domain system in its data center to a secondary system at a remote site miles away. This network-efficient replication solution significantly reduces costs, complexity and risk compared to tape-based replication.

Faster backup and recovery ensures data protection

Since standardizing on Dell EMC Data Protection software and Data Domain storage, Baker Tilly has streamlined backups dramatically while ensuring fast, precise recovery of data.

"The most important benefits of Dell EMC Data Protection Suite are shorter backup windows, replication to eliminate tapes, and quick restores," says Weiner. "I'd advise anyone looking at data protection to deploy Dell EMC Data Protection software and Data Domain as a combined solution. The deduplication rate we get with both solutions together is a big advantage."

In fact, by taking advantage of the tight integration of Dell EMC protection storage and protection software, Baker Tilly enabled full nightly backups in five hours instead of 20-hour full weekly backups. Eliminating tape not only saved money on offsite storage, but also accelerated restores from up to a day to just hours.

A bright future in the cloud

As Baker Tilly continues on its digital transformation journey, the firm plans to adopt a cloud strategy for long-term data retention. This will include deploying Dell EMC Data Domain Cloud Tier to move data from on-premises to cloud storage, freeing up more local capacity. "Using Dell EMC Data Domain Cloud Tier will free up more storage capacity in our data center for actively used data," Weiner notes. "Plus, we will be able to manage our cloud tier backups from the Data Protection software."

He concludes, "The partnership between Dell EMC and Baker Tilly has a bright future. Dell EMC will provide vital assistance and know-how to help us move forward to an automated, centralized approach that will protect our workloads across our data centers and the cloud."

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