



University College Zealand improves backup frequency 4x and recovers files in minutes

University College Zealand:

Size: 11,000 students/650 employees

Industry: Higher education

Location: Zealand, Denmark

Solutions

- Improve data protection with high-capacity storage and fast, scalable computing
- Give students and faculty fast access to needed data with VMware-optimized backup and replication software

Located on Denmark's most populated island, University College Zealand (or Sjælland in Danish) is one of the country's regional colleges. Students can earn bachelor's degrees in 10 fields, including biomedical laboratory science, leisure management, nursing, public administration, and teaching.

Challenge: fast, reliable backup and recovery

Students and faculty save their work on the university's servers. They count on ready access to their files day or night. A student whose term paper gets corrupted needs to know that she can recover a recent backup. Professors never want to have to tell a student that an online exam is gone forever.

University College Zealand has an advanced data center hosting 380 virtual machines, including the course management system and Microsoft Exchange. Virtual machines run on FlexPod converged infrastructure, which includes Cisco UCS blade servers, NetApp storage, and VMware.

The weak link? Backup and recovery. Both took too long, and backups sometimes failed. Without recent backups, students and faculty risked losing hours or even days

of work. "We couldn't promise students and faculty access to what they needed, whenever they needed it," said Steffen Bendix Søjberg, IT operations manager at University College Zealand. "They work extremely hard, and they deserve the peace of mind of knowing their work is backed up and recoverable."

Outsourcing backup and recovery didn't improve reliability, and monthly costs added up. Compounding the problem, the college's data stores grow 30 percent every year, and the network-attached storage (NAS) array that hosted the backup data was approaching its limits. University College wanted a more sustainable storage solution. "We needed more space, and we needed more speed," Søjberg says.

Scalable production storage with high-speed backup and recovery

Cisco® partner Conscia recommended the Cisco UCS S3260 Rack Server to replace the NAS array. "The S3260 answered our needs by delivering high-capacity storage and fast, scalable computing," says Søjberg. Just four rack units store up to 360 TB. Even with a 30 percent annual growth rate, the college has enough storage capacity for years to come.

For More Information

For more Cisco customer stories visit: <http://www.cisco.com/go/customerstories>

With Cisco UCS, University College Zealand:



Backs up 60 percent faster and recovers 75 percent faster



Enables the college to back up four times as often



Scales easily to store 30 percent more data every year

“Then we saw what the S3260 could do with Veeam,” Søjberg says. Today, a second S3260 hosts Veeam Backup & Replication software and serves as the backup repository. “Veeam and Cisco UCS S3260 are incredible together,” Søjberg says. “They’re easy to use, flexible, and scalable.”

Recovery is 75 percent faster

The term paper that disappeared? The IT team recovers virtual machines and individual files 75 percent faster with the S3260 and Veeam. Restoring a single critical email takes just minutes with Veeam Explorer for Microsoft Exchange, and IT can quickly recover entire virtual machines using Instant VM Recovery.

Backing up four times more often

That’s because backups are 60 percent faster with Cisco UCS S3260 and Veeam, and backups don’t slow down application performance. More recent backups keep campus users happy. Even better, the IT team saves several hours a week managing the new solution. Managing the S3260 is simple, and Veeam doesn’t require backup agents on every machine.

Three-nines uptime provides peace of mind

Students and staff rest easier knowing that their files are backed up. “Veeam with Cisco UCS is the reason we can promise students

and faculty 24/7 access to their files,” Søjberg says. “Like everyone says, it just works. Backup is dependable and recovery takes minutes.”

The solution proved its value when a cybercriminal infected the college’s servers with malware and demanded money to release the files. The IT team simply restored the latest backup, ignoring the demand. “Even ransomware couldn’t stop us from recovering from a backup in minutes,” Søjberg says. “We’re amazed by what Veeam and the S3260 can do.”

Simple disaster recovery solution

Now University College is planning a disaster recovery solution. Veeam will replicate data between the existing S3260 and another one in a future disaster recovery site.

Søjberg concludes, “Veeam and Cisco UCS S3260 support us by simplifying backup and recovery and optimizing backup storage. We now have 99.9 percent uptime and very happy users.”

Products and Services

Unified Computing

- Cisco UCS S3260 Rack Servers
- FlexPod converged infrastructure
- Cisco UCS B200 Blade Servers

• Pure Storage

- VMware vSphere

Cloud and Systems Management

- Cisco UCS Manager



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