American SurgiSite Centers Case Study

The Organization

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The Challenge

- Client/server and data base application recovery
- Widely distributed data sites
- Regulatory security mandates

The SonicWALL Solution

- SonicWALL Continuous Data Protection (CDP) 210
- SonicWALL Continuous Data Protection (CDP) 110

The Results

- Streamlined, centralized administration
- More reliable backup and recovery
- Ease of use
- Regulatory compliance

American SurgiSite Centers (ASC) develops and manages ambulatory surgery centers that specialize in ophthalmic eye surgery. Its network of surgical facilities supports hundreds of highly qualified surgeons. Headquartered in Somerset, New Jersey, ASC combines state-of-the-art surgical facilities and management skills with top quality patient care.

The challenge: reliable and compliant distributed backup
The ASC network connects many locations across five states, supporting over 300 medical professionals and 80 administrative staff members. Application and data traffic traversing the network includes daily surgical schedules, patient information, imaging scans, consent forms and prescription information.

Previously, center office managers conducted isolated tape based backup at each location independently. However, recovery from tape backup usually meant sending someone onsite to review the tape library, cataloging the specific tape and then recovering the file. ASC was not satisfied with the ability to monitor or control backups with this approach because it often involved protracted time intervals to recover mission-critical data.

As its network infrastructure and applications grew, ASC required a backup and recovery solution that was highly reliable, centrally managed, easily administered, and met the stringent security requirements of HIPAA, PCI and other regulatory mandates.

To aid in selecting the best solution to fit their needs, ACS sought the advice of its experienced IT solutions provider, MSI Technologies, LLC. In addition, ASC wanted MSI to monitor the backup environment, and take the responsibility of maintaining a tape backup solution away from ASC staff. MSI had previously assisted ASC in successfully deploying SonicWALL® Clean VPN and Clean Wireless solutions, integrating SonicWALL Network Security Appliance (NSA) firewalls and Secure Remote Access (SRA) SSL VPN appliances with SonicPoint-N wireless access devices.

Upon thorough evaluation of ASC's requirements, MSI recommended a SonicWALL Continuous Data Protection (CDP) backup and recovery approach. MSI suggested the CDP solution as a complement to ASC's existing tape procedure. ASC particularly liked the centralized management and integrated offsite benefits.

"While the tape solution was working and seen as a functioning solution, CDP provided a much more scalable approach that could be monitored from a central location," said Darren Sammartino, MSI technical services partner for ASC. "It gave us the ability to manage offsite replication to a central location with minimal monitoring."

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SonicWALL Benefits

- Backup and recovery of multiple workstations and servers with a capacity of up to 2 TB (at standard 2:1 compression ratios)

- Policy-driven, user-transparent backups of multiple versions of files and applications

- Backup and recovery of Exchange and SQL databases

- Optional local archiving, offsite data backup, site-to-site data backup, and bare metal recovery of entire systems onto original, virtual or new Windows or Linux devices

The solution: SonicWALL CDP 210 and CDP 110

ASC deployed a SonicWALL Continuous Data Protection (CDP) 210 appliance at its headquarters, which in turn aggregates backups from CDP 110 appliances at the distributed surgical centers.

"By implementing the CDP solution, the office staff at each center was no longer responsible for executing the backup strategy," said Sammartino. "This ensured faster response time and consistent coverage. With the CDP, the staff from MSI can log in remotely and recover the file in a matter of minutes."

The SonicWALL CDP 210 is ideal for small- to medium-sized distributed environments, as well as remote or branch offices requiring complete end-to-end disk-based backup and recovery for multiple workstations and servers with a capacity of up to 2 TB (at standard 2:1 compression ratios). The low-touch solution automatically enforces policy-driven, user-transparent backups of multiple versions of files and applications—including Microsoft® Exchange and SQL databases. The SonicWALL CDP 210 offers flexible disaster recovery options for local archiving, offsite data backup, site-to-site data backup, and bare metal recovery of entire systems onto original, virtual or new Windows® devices.

"Individually, no one can do a CDP restore without having authorized access to the system," said Joshua Simon, MSI senior technical specialist.

The results: centralized backup and recovery of distributed data and applications

American SurgiSite Centers now uses its CDP solution to back up sensitive and mission-critical data, databases and applications from its widely distributed surgical locations to its central data center, automatically and securely.

"Since CDP is more reliable, ASC has never had any catastrophic data losses," said Sammartino. "CDP provided a streamlined backup solution that allows the surgery centers to operate smoothly without having to focus on disaster recovery."

Historically, recovery was uncertain and once accomplished, it could take hours. Now, recovering a folder of scans might take minutes. As a result, centers are more willing to call to have a file recovered than recreate the work themselves. There is also a higher regard for system availability and dependability.

"Hours in consulting time can be saved when a critical file needs to be recovered," said Sammartino. "Because minor data recoveries are more efficient, ASC gets more data recovery capabilities for its money."

In addition, CDP encryption and access control functionality, in combination with its Clean VPN and Clean Wireless deployments, help ASC meet HIPPA and other regulatory compliance requirements.

"There is always the potential for patient data to be written to the network," said Sammartino. "Having a HIPPA-compliant product is essential in the medical field and is a key decision factor."

The future: scaling for a growing network

ASC centers are expanding geographically, and the network will need to grow along with the enterprise.

"We are very interested in the direction that SonicWALL is taking its CDP line," said Simon. "We look forward to extending ASC's recovery and continuity capabilities even further in the future."

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