

Simple SAN helps school improve investment in educational technology, protect important records



“I can buy either one server or, for about the same price, buy an HP All-in-One Storage System and improve the operation of all my servers. The latter is a much smarter way to improve and expand our network capabilities.”

– Charles Love, Big Sur Technologies
IT Director for St. John’s Episcopal Parish Day School



HP customer case study: HP StorageWorks 400 All-in-One Storage System and HP ProLiant servers

Industry: Education

Objective:

Enhance storage utilization, extend server life, reduce reliance on tape, and automate backup management

Approach:

Deploy the HP StorageWorks 400 All-in-One Storage System (AiO400) to centralize and simplify storage management

IT improvements:

- Consolidated Microsoft Exchange environment, simplifying management and reliability
- Began migration from 100% direct-attached to centralized storage
- Improved storage utilization
- Assigned dedicated blocks of storage in 25% less time

Business benefits:

- Provided secure, automated backup for important school records and documents
- Extended IT infrastructure’s useful life, to maximize investment
- Avoided costly server upgrades

Private school finds small SAN a blessing

Florida’s St. John’s Episcopal Parish Day School was seeking a solution to its mounting data and document storage management challenges, when its managed care service provider, Big Sur Technologies, learned of a new shared-storage platform. St. John’s church and three schools, located within a half mile of each other



on the shores of Tampa Bay, had reached the capacity limits of the direct-attached storage (DAS) on its distributed servers. The schools were also finding it increasingly difficult, and labor-intensive, to manage regular tape backups using locally attached tape drives.

Most of the technology the school and Big Sur had investigated was too expensive or too complicated for the small network. To replace the school’s servers would cost at least \$15,000 or more – and would still leave the network without a centralized storage-management system or automated backup solution. The new HP StorageWorks solution provided the benefits of SAN storage at an affordable price.

All the power...without the fuss

“HP’s new integrated storage system sounded ideal for St. John’s,” says Big Sur’s Charles Love, who serves as IT director for St. John’s. “We beta tested the HP

Customer solution at a glance

Consolidated storage on HP StorageWorks 400 All-in-One Storage System

Primary applications

- Office automation
- E-mail
- Education management
- Storage management

Primary software

- HP StorageWorks All-in-One Storage Manager (ASM)
- HP StorageWorks Data Protector Express Software
- Microsoft® Exchange Server 2003
- Microsoft Windows® Storage Server 2003 R2
- Microsoft Windows XP operating system

- Microsoft Office Suite
- Citrix Presentation Server

Primary hardware

- HP StorageWorks 400 All-in-One Storage System (AiO400)
- 5 HP ProLiant ML350 and ML330 servers
- 40 HP Compaq d220 Microtower Desktop PC
- 3 HP Compaq dx2000 Microtower PC
- 75 HP Compaq Desktop PCs
- 2 HP LaserJet printers
- 4 HP DeskJet printers

HP Services

- Warranty support

StorageWorks 400 All-in-One Storage System for a couple of months, and then put it into production. It solved many problems. We began consolidating several instances of Exchange Server onto the AiO400, which gave us the expansion capacity we needed so desperately.”

The HP All-in-One Storage System allows St. John’s to set up centralized storage without the help of a dedicated storage expert. The All-in-One Storage Manager (ASM) interface provides data-migration tools for both Exchange and SQL Server, including best-practice recommendations. The ASM interface also provides scripts to automate storage-management tasks – such as creating logical unit numbers (LUNs) and snapshots, and scheduling backups. A fast-start wizard helps streamline setup and other chores.

“The HP All-in-One Storage System wizard turns what could be many, many steps into a few mouse clicks,” Love says. “It makes it easy to get it right the first time. The wizard and the ASM interface greatly simplify storage management. For instance, I can launch new storage locations on the AiO400 in about a quarter of the time it used to take.”

According to Love, the HP AiO400 storage system allowed St. John’s to maintain its decentralized infrastructure – designed to maintain continued operations in the event of flooding or other weather-related outages – yet provide centralized, automated backups. Says Love, “We have one or more servers in each of four locations, and we backed up onto local tape drives. That process was unreliable and labor-intensive. With the HP AiO400, we can automate the backup and file-recovery process for our entire network, making it safer and faster. We use the HP Data Protector Express Software that comes with the AiO400 to automate backups to tape. Instead of keeping mission-critical data on distributed servers, we can protect it centrally – and still provide fast access over the iSCSI connection.”

About St. John’s

Founded in 1951, St. John’s Episcopal Parish Day School’s (www.stjohnseagles.org) mission is to provide a superior elementary and middle school education (pre-K through 8), in preparation for the demands of rigorous secondary school studies. The Tampa-based school encourages academic growth, responsibility, and personal effectiveness in a nurturing environment of Christian values and high standards.

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