School district protects student files with Carbonite Safe Backup

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As the "one-man IT shop" for the Decatur School District, Charlie Weber is responsible for everything from fixing schoolroom projectors to ensuring that the lunchroom software is working. He's also in charge of making sure the district's mission-critical data is properly backed up.

The Decatur School District is made up of three schools on two campuses, including an elementary school, a middle school and a high school. The district boasts about 570 K-12 students and 65 full-time faculty and staff.

A stark wake-up call

In 2011, a devastating tornado swept through the city of Joplin, Missouri, which is about an hour north of Decatur. In the aftermath of the tornado, people in the vicinity began to think more about disaster preparedness.

As part of Decatur's ongoing efforts to be prepared for anything, the school system decided to update its approach to data backup and recovery. Prior to becoming a Carbonite Safe™ Backup user, the school district backed up data to an external hard drive located onsite. Weber wanted to increase the district's level of protection by ensuring that data was backed up to the cloud and accessible from anywhere.

"The tornado really got everyone thinking about the kind of stuff that IT people think about all of the time," Weber recalled. After evaluating several options, the Decatur School District decided to go with Carbonite Safe Backup for its backup and recovery needs.

A backup for critical information

Today, Weber uses Carbonite Safe Backup to protect the school district's mission-critical data. That includes files associated with the lunchroom software; the superintendent's home directory; and the school business manager's home directory. The three schools currently have about 100 gigabytes of data backed up by Carbonite Safe Backup.

"I also keep a backup of my domain controller," Weber said. "It houses pretty much all of my active directory information. If it dies people won't be able to log into their computer."

Location

Decatur, Arkansas

Specialty

K-12 education

Carbonite user since

2014

Key benefits

Easy to use, hybrid protection, automatic

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Sage advice from an experienced IT pro

What advice does Weber have for school districts and other organizations interested in implementing a new data backup and recovery system? Before launching the system, take a close look at your data and determine which files are the most important. Then write it down and make sure those items are backed up properly once the system is online. Also, be sure to test your backups at least four times per year.

"I've sat in front of my home computer on a snow day and downloaded a few files just to make sure that they're there," he explained. "Your backup plan is only as good as the backups on it and you don't know for sure what's on it until you look at it closely."

Some of Decatur School District's favorite features include:

Easy to use and easy to manage

Weber loves the fact that you can tell Carbonite Safe Backup to back up just one file in a folder, or the entire folder. The system makes it easy for users to back up what's most important. He simply needs to log into Carbonite Safe Backup and set up the backup job by selecting the items he wants to protect most.

Hybrid protection

Carbonite Safe Backup allows Weber to back up school files to local servers as well as to the cloud. Hybrid backup combines the speed of local backup with the peace of mind that comes from knowing your data is also stored safely in the cloud.

Automatic

Once Carbonite Safe Backup is up and running, it does its job quietly and reliably in the background, without Weber having to worry about it. The IT pro follows his own advice and has a calendar reminder that tells him to check on his backed-up files every three months. But he admits that without the reminder, it would be easy to forget about it.

"I call Carbonite the Easy Bake Oven," Weber said. "You can set it and forget it. I have to remind myself: Go make sure it's still working."

On the occasions when Weber has checked on Carbonite Safe Backup, he found it to be running smoothly and hasn't experienced any issues. "I always know it's working," he said.

Learn more about Carbonite data protection solutions today.

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