



CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Customer Overview

Clackamas Community College is an accredited community college located in Oregon that serves a diverse student body of more than 38,000 students across three active campuses. The college offers a variety of transfer degrees and more than 80 career and technical programs that range from short-term training to two-year associate degrees. The college, which first opened in 1966, today has 1,000 people on staff comprised of both full-time and part-time personnel.

Challenge: Storage Silos Presented Complexity and Risk

Clackamas Community College currently has three campuses located 10 to 20 miles apart from each other and houses all of its primary data in one data center for the entire organization. The school's IT department manages 2,000 desktop computers and backs up images for all those machines. Additionally, when new desktops are acquired, they transfer contents of the aged desktops via a temporary archive and then migrate the data onto the new hardware. The IT department was encountering an issue where their technicians were maintaining disparate NAS devices for backing up these desktop images. This didn't allow for the IT organization to have a handle on any of the data being stored on these independent devices and proved to be difficult to track and manage. This issue presented a security challenge because the IT organization would have no idea whether the data was leaving the organization. Clackamas was looking for a scalable solution that would allow them to centralize the backup data and provide an alternative to using their expensive SAN storage for these backup jobs.



SOLUTION HIGHLIGHTS

- Provided efficient way of archiving video
- Delivered performance and scalability
- Provided 100% IOPS availability

"Our challenge was having a bunch of disparate storage devices with no consistency, making it hard to manage. We needed a solution that was easy to integrate with our existing environment, and could scale as we grew."

Scott Branscum, Senior IT Systems Engineer

Solution: Performance, Scalability and Affordability All-in-One

After evaluating different options, Clackamas chose the Grid to provide the IT technicians with a scalable, shared storage solution without the high expense of its primary SAN storage. As with most organizations today, staff and resources were limited. The organization wanted to focus on productive business initiatives, not maintaining and managing complex storage solutions. At the same time, they didn't want to use their most expensive storage tier as a backup target. By implementing the Grid, Gridstore provided Clackamas with the performance and scalability they required in an affordable and easy-to-manage solution.

They leveraged the Grid not only to efficiently consolidate their technicians' data but, as a result of the ease of use and scalability, they also decided to archive their video delivery content platform on the Grid. The Grid was seamlessly integrated into the Clackamas data center to archive educational videos. Gridstore provided Clackamas with a simple, powerful and affordable solution that could be used for multiple use cases. It provided the organization with flexibility, manageability and security, as there were no longer several different independent and unmanaged devices with no way of tracking their associated data.

RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS

Centralized PC backups
The Grid was flexible enough to address different use cases
No disruption to business
Increased cost and resource efficiency

Results: A More Efficient Solution That Delivers Scalability and Reliability

Clackamas Community College could now centralize the PC backups in a consolidated manner. Even better, they were able to support multiple workflows on the same Grid: one for their PC backups and the other for archiving their web videos. In addition to this, archiving their web videos data with the Grid made it much more cost and resource efficient for the organization. It was a "win-win" solution for both the business users and IT.

The Grid scaled efficiently and effectively, for both use cases, with no disruption to the business. The Gridstore solution is designed to be:

SIMPLE: The system was easily integrated into the Clackamas environment, causing no disruption whatsoever to the business. The system is highly automated and easy to use.

"A redundant type of solution that is also easy to scale out by adding nodes and easily manage. There was no learning curve for showing endusers how to access and use the Grid. It presented a shared volume, just as you would expect, and others could access and use that storage on demand."

POWERFUL: The system scales with storage requirements over time. It's designed for Pay-as-you-Scale, without over-provisioning for performance. Direct parallel I/O optimizes existing resources, providing storage throughput vs. throughput required for replication in other systems.

Said Branscum, "Gridstore's solution helped us to not only centralize our storage and make it easy to manage, but allowed us enough scale to also use it for our web video delivery as well. The fact that we don't have to over-provision capacity allowed us 100% capacity availability, a win/win for us."

AFFORDABLE: Gridstore eliminates the age-old trade-off of performance versus cost. Gridstore delivers both, without compromises. The Gridstore architecture is designed with the optimal efficiency in mind, allowing you to Pay-as-you-Scale.

"Instead of the high costs that we would have to think about in the future to project for the SAN, we can instead grow the Grid quite a bit faster and more of it than we would be able to do in the same amount of budget in the SAN environment."

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Gridstore delivers a simple, powerful and affordable solution that is flexible for any level of performance demands, and scales by simply adding additional storage nodes as needed. Gridstore scales as your business needs to scale. No forklift upgrades. No over-provisioning. No complexity.



OPTIMIZED STORAGE FOR THE MODERN DATA CENTER