Largest High School Gets Latest Data Backup System

The largest High School District in Illinois is using the computer industry's latest storage technology, the GreenTape VTS virtual tape server, to securely hold archival copies of the records created on its IBM mainframe computer system. GreenTape, from Reliable Computer Sales, is already saving Township High School District 211 time, money and electricity.

Township High School District 211 has more than 12,000 students in its five area high schools. It is located about 25 miles northwest of Chicago and serves the communities of Hoffman Estates, Inverness, Palatine, Schaumburg, Elk Grove Village, Rolling Meadows and Barrington. District 211 has been an IBM mainframe customer for over 30 years and continues to support and run its Student Information System on IBM's VSE operating system and DL/1 software.

Until June 2009 the district was using four IBM 3490 transports to perform tape processing and nightly backups. After a thorough study and a 60-day proof of concept the Reliable GreenTape VTS was selected to replace the aging IBM 3490 tape transports. Not only is the GreenTape less costly to operate than the equipment it replaced, it is a lot faster, too. The school's information processing department says tape processing and backups are currently being done in half the time.

To power the GreenTape VTS, the District chose a Dell PowerEdge 2950 server with 2 TB of disk storage. Going forward, all backups will be done on optical disk and the existing tape library, still on IBM tape cartridges, will be rewritten on optical disks.

"The savings just in maintenance costs over 36 months more than we paid for the GreenTape VTS," said Charlie Peterson, Director of Information Technology at District 211.

Additional savings will be realized in energy cost reduction, reduced footprint and elimination of a third party tape management software package. An additional benefit is the data encryption offered by the VTS software, a security feature that is not available on IBM 3490 tape transports.

With the new Dell 2950, the additional benefits of speed and efficiency will become more obvious to the data center operations staff.

"This is a definite paradigm shift in tape processing and archiving," said Bill Fink, Senior Programmer at the District.

For more information concerning the GreenTape VTS, please contact us at sales@reliablecomputer.com or visit our web site at www.reliablecomputer.com.