

Newham University Hospital

NHS Trust

Reliable Backup with CommVault: Lowering the cost of protecting data to focus on excellent patient care

Newham University Hospital NHS Trust (NUHT) is a 379-bed hospital serving one of Britain's most diverse, fastest growing, and youngest populations—providing excellent care and delivering the best treatment and support as close to patients' homes as possible. With Stratford City on their doorstep and significant events such as Olympics 2012, they need to ensure that their services can meet these new challenges. IT provides backup services for departments within the hospital and to 30 other buildings on campus.

“Rather than continue to invest only in our Tier 1 SAN, the time was right to create a tiered architecture for lower-cost backup. ...” Shaun Jeffery, ICT Operations Manager

IT Challenge

In healthcare environments, the IT staff is constantly challenged with increasing the quantity and quality of services while maintaining costs. *An even greater challenge is increasing those services while simultaneously reducing cost.* For a small IT staff with broad responsibilities across many technologies, a new approach is often needed. NetApp primary storage worked very well for NUHT, though a new multi-tier, disk-based backup architecture to increase protection triggered the search for additional storage. To reduce cost at the same time, the new storage needed to be as reliable and robust as the primary, but more affordable to deploy, expand, and manage over time.

Drobo Storage Solution

Four Drobo B800fs systems were acquired for less than the cost of just one other system in the existing architecture, allowing for a full disk backup from the NetApp SAN to two Drobo systems in the main hospital building. Protection was improved by using a second pair of Drobo systems for another full disk backup. CommVault software was making backup copies before, and Drobo fit into that environment well. CommVault makes the first backup (green) from the NetApp to a pair of Drobo B800fs systems on the local network and then makes a subsequent copy of the data offloaded from the SAN from the Drobo systems to a third tier of offsite Drobo storage (blue), where the two other Drobo systems are in separate locations on the campus for added resiliency,

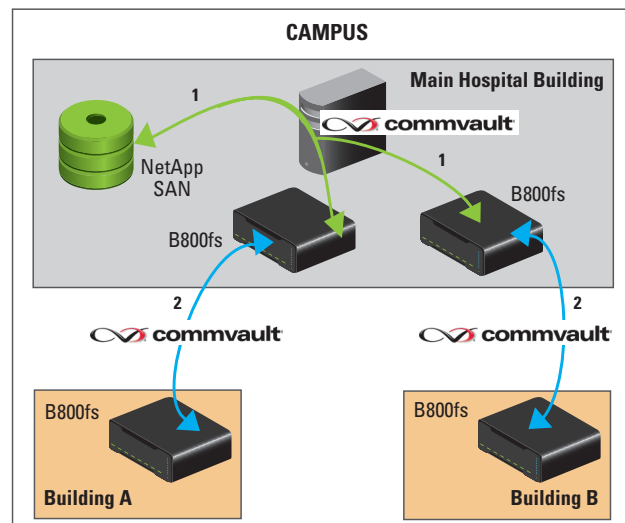
QUICK FACTS

Solution

- 4 x Drobo B800fs systems for full disk backup at the primary site
- NetApp SAN for primary storage
- CommVault backing up from NetApp to Drobo B800fs systems on local network
- Copy of backup data sent to third tier of Drobo storage

Benefits

- Compelling economics allowing for three-tier backup protection
- An architecture that supports affordable expansion and repair
- Meaningful time savings derived from the simplicity of Drobo



More About the Solution

File archiving is the top requirement, calling for new tiers of storage without sacrificing protection. A member of the IT staff, who had a Drobo storage solution at home, introduced the idea of using Drobo in the new architecture. As a NetApp customer, Drobo was not a company they would normally have thought of for their type of environment. But the more they looked, the more they understood the simple, sophisticated protection of BeyondRAID™ and advanced features such as Thin Provisioning, which make storage for backup more affordable to purchase and also to expand over time.

Newham University Hospital has 30 buildings on their campus, with departments and clinics using central IT for protected storage. In addition to growth in hospital operations and file records, departments continue to bring new applications online. The new architecture enabled by Drobo storage offloaded the primary SAN, postponing major investments in that area.

“BeyondRAID technology is innovative and just what we were looking for; the investment was minimal for what we got.”

“Simplicity is important, and this small box has worked as well as any of the other technologies we have.” Shaun Jeffery, ICT Operations Manager

With DroboPro (shown at right) as the disk backup solution in the hospital and across campus, IT can grow backup storage without buying additional chassis. New disks can expand the systems automatically, and smaller disks can be replaced with larger disks to automatically grow physical capacity independent of the virtual capacity provided with Thin Provisioning.



More Information

Great information on the solutions described here and many others can be found @ www.drobo.com/solutions.

To learn more about how Drobo solutions can help you, ask your preferred reseller or visit www.drobo.com/where-to-buy.

To learn more about the Drobo B800fs, visit: www.drobo.com/products/business/b800fs/index.php.