

Clifton College Case Study

• Clifton College Solves Backup Problems

Clifton College was established in 1862 and is one of the leading independent schools in the country with approximately 1200 pupils. Although it has a rich history it wants to be forward looking in its approach to IT and cloud solutions.

The College was experiencing lots of issues with its existing backup solution which included the regular failure of overnight jobs, corruption and excessive storage space. The solution also had a large management overhead.

The decision was made to go out to tender for a new solution that would meet the College's backup needs and would also provide the scalability it needed for future growth.

• Fully Managed Backup

Cristie Data was chosen to provide a fully managed backup solution. The solution integrated easily with the College's VM environment which runs on VMware.

The Cristie Cloud solution involves an independent Cristie Data backup appliance being placed in the customer environment, which is preconfigured for the specific requirements and Service Level Agreements of the business. Local backup retention is stored on the Cristie Data appliance with all backups being replicated into the cloud service. The replications sit in an ISO-accredited data centre that is owned and operated by Cristie Data's parent company iomart - one of the UK's leading managed cloud service providers.

The College carried out a full Data Protection Impact Assessment to check that the solution and the iomart data centre were compliant with the relevant regulations it operates to around personal data.



CLIFTON
COLLEGE
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Challenges

- Ageing on premise solution resulting in regular backup failures and corruptions
- Significant storage and management overhead
- Ever-increasing licencing costs

Solution

- Cristie Cloud Backup-as-a-Service
- With up to 15 minute Recovery Point Objective
- And 30 day on-site plus secure long term off-site retention policies

Benefits

- Significant reduction in backup management overhead
- More reliable backup solution
- Significantly improved data loss exposure and data recovery ability
- Data secured in off-site wholly owned, Tier 4 UK data centre
- Compliant to ISO27001



cristie data
an iomart company

Storage / Virtualisation
Backup / Recovery / Protection



Richard Edwards, Head of IT Systems, Clifton College, says, "Cristie configure all the backup plans, they do all the testing. The only overhead we have is, if we have a failure, we restore the data. That's released my team to do the jobs that they're actually employed to do and has given an extra value to the solution."

The solution has a very simple pricing structure. "You don't have to look at what hardware you've got, you don't have to pay for the number of VMs or machines you're backing up. It's just by terabyte," explains Yaser Jafari, Infrastructure and Systems Engineer for Clifton College. "So every month, when we're envisaging that we're going to have data growth, we just pay for that extra data usage and that's it."

Cristie Data worked closely with Clifton College to ensure the solution was implemented properly. "They provided us with all the information we needed, all the questions we asked were answered for us," Yaser Jafari, Infrastructure and Systems Engineer, Clifton College, explains. "We've been trained into using the product the way we wanted, we've not just been left alone."

Richard Edwards echoes this. "Cristie didn't come across as the hard sell, they let us trial the solutions. Their technical support was very good. You can ask questions and get responses very easily. The whole project implementation has been pretty seamless."

• The Results

Clifton College now has a backup solution that's reliable, scalable and fit for purpose. There has been a dramatic improvement in data recovery and retention periods.

The Recovery Point Objective is now 15 minutes whereas before the best they could achieve was 24 hours. Previously the College could only retain data on-site for 2-4 weeks, whereas now it can retain up to

30 days of data on-site and over one year off-site with multiple restore points. This is a much better fit for the College's Disaster Recovery strategy.

With 1200 pupils from all over the world and the potential for exponential growth of data, Clifton College believes that the fully managed backup solution from Cristie Data will meet its future requirements.

"If we lost a pupil's coursework that could have an impact on the rest of their lives so it's critical that we have a backup solution that's dependable, reliable and we know works well," says Richard Edwards. "Cristie has offered us a scalable solution that we can use within the cloud to meet the needs of our business and protect our students' data."

• About Clifton College

Clifton College was founded and led in 1862 by Revd. John Percival, a visionary intellectual Head Master who believed in science, the education of women and racial tolerance. His curriculum and activities outside the classroom developed young people who were confident without arrogance and had a sense of responsibility for others; characteristics which remain today. This is achieved through high quality teachers who have excellent relationships with their pupils and is underpinned through continuous investment in the all-round education of pupils. To find out more visit www.cliftoncollege.com

• About Cristie Data

Cristie Data have been IT infrastructure and data management specialists for over 40 years. We take a consultative and platform agnostic approach to any customer project and advise on solutions that are best aligned to your businesses. www.cristie.co.uk