Columbus Metropolitan Library Keeps Community Connected With Zerto

Executive Overview

Columbus Metropolitan Library has served the people of Franklin County, Ohio since 1873. With its Main Library and 22 branches, CML is well known for signature services and programs like Homework Help, Reading Buddies, Summer Reading Club and Ready for Kindergarten. The library's Strategic Plan supports the vision of "a thriving community where wisdom prevails," which positions CML to respond to areas of urgent need: kids unprepared for kindergarten, third grade reading proficiency, high school graduation, college career readiness and employment resources.

CML was named a 2011 National Medal Winner by the Institute for Museum and Library Services for work in community service, the highest honor for libraries and museums. CML was also named 2010 Library of the Year by Library Journal.

Challenges

- In-house infrastructure was coming to end of life – extremely costly to replace and manage
- DR strategy did not allow for real retention due to sizing and cost of tape
- Lack of staffing to support complex infrastructure
- Lack of confidence in current DR plan

Solution

- DRaaS solution powered by Zerto Virtual Replication and managed by trusted partner Expedient

Zerto Results

Significant Cost Savings

DRaaS solution, in addition to leveraging Expedient's Infrastructure as a Service solutions, allowed the Library to avoid a large upfront investment.

Minimal Community Impact

RPO is now 15 minutes.

No Additional IT Staff

DRaaS and other managed services eliminates staffing requirements needed for a complex infrastructure.

About Expedient

Expedient is a cloud and data center infrastructure as a service (IaaS) provider with 11 data centers in 7 cities in the Midwest and East Coast. Ranked as one of the Top 10 managed services providers worldwide on the 2017 MSPMentor 501 list, Expedient's converged solutions enable clients to focus on strategic business innovation, while the Expedient team handles operation of the information technology needed to support it. www.expedient.com.

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CML Updates Disaster Recovery Plan With Zerto Through Expedient

Columbus Metropolitan Library is committed to keeping the community connected and relies on IT staff to ensure its network of 23 locations are always up and running.

Before Zerto Virtual Replication (ZVR), CML utilized tape backups to ensure the availability of its IT systems. This method was both too unreliable and too costly to protect the entire infrastructure. In addition, the library system was due for an infrastructure refresh as the infrastructure was nearing end of life. The IT staff took this as an opportunity to evaluate other options, as replacing the infrastructure would be extremely costly and require additional IT staff to manage.

After learning that an infrastructure rebuild would be cost-prohibitive, CML began to consider contracting with a managed services provider for disaster recovery and other services like infrastructure and backup. Columbus Metropolitan Library went to bid and evaluated the proposals, vendor stability, experience, references, solutions, technical competency, and cost of multiple providers.

Following a thorough selection process, CML selected Expedient's Push Button DR solution powered by Zerto Virtual Replication. Shortly after, CML leveraged ZVR to migrate existing infrastructure to Expedient's cloud. The experience was seamless and made CML feel confident in its choice of DRaaS providers.

"It felt like all we did was push a button and our applications just showed up at Expedient," said Burton Bardus, Senior Director of IT at Columbus Metropolitan Library. "The migration was so easy; we knew the experience for DR would be just as seamless."

Columbus Metropolitan Library's Board of Trustees was a big proponent of the DR project, as downtime affects the community. "Our community relies on the library system for access to 1,200 PCs along with our mobile printing

AT A GLANCE: COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN LIBRARY

Sites/Location
2 sites, geographically disparate

Applications Protected
Website, financial apps, enterprise imaging app, active directory, all production servers

Storage
Dell EqualLogic Hybrid Array managed by Expedient

VM Environment
95 VMs

and book lending services. Downtime negatively impacts the community and having a DR strategy powered by Zerto and managed by Expedient gives us the confidence we can minimize this impact."

CML's previous DR solution did not allow for real retention and since there was no simple way to test, CML was not confident in its ability to recover in the event of an unplanned outage. Without the ability to test, CML guessed that an outage would take days or weeks to recover from and it could lose anywhere from a day's worth to weeks' worth of data. "We had a best effort DR model before. With ZVR, we now have a DR plan with predictable RPOs and RTOs which gives our staff the confidence that we'll be able to easily and quickly recover during any DR event," said Justin Bumbico, Manager of Infrastructure Services at Columbus Metropolitan Library.

Through the partnership with Expedient and a DRaaS solution powered by Zerto, CML feels confident they have the most reliable DR solution in place with a responsive team ready when they need them.

About Zerto

Zerto helps customers accelerate IT transformation by eliminating the risk and complexity of modernization and cloud adoption. By replacing multiple legacy solutions with a single IT Resilience Platform, Zerto is changing the way disaster recovery, data protection and cloud are managed. With enterprise scale, Zerto's software platform delivers continuous availability for an always-on customer experience while simplifying workload mobility to protect, recover and move applications freely across hybrid and multi-clouds. **www.zerto.com**

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