IT Resilience for Law Firms

Protecting more than the Billable Hour

Law firms depend on their interactions with clients, courts, and other attorneys being safely recorded and available at all times. The ability to access this data is critical for maximizing uptime and protecting the billable hour - the primary source of revenue for most law firms.

According to a recent report from Altman Weil, 2019 was a record-breaking year for U.S. law firm mergers and acquisitions. Although mergers and acquisitions can often be a primary growth strategy, this challenges the expectation of an always-available IT infrastructure as it frequently results in a complex, disparate environment that becomes increasingly difficult to manage.

The ability to enable data mobility across heterogeneous hardware, IT infrastructure, and clouds makes the Zerto platform an ideal solution for law firms. Zerto provides a simple, scalable platform that converges disaster recovery, backup and mobility—both on-premises and in the cloud. It is a software-only solution that installs in under an hour with no downtime or disruption to production and can be managed through a single interface. Zerto delivers Recovery Point Objectives (RPO) of seconds and Recovery Time Objectives (RTO) of minutes, protecting both revenue stream and the availability of case information.

> "Implementing Zerto was one of the best decisions we, as an IT team, have made. Not only has it saved the IT team a lot of headaches, it has made the migration to Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) a lot easier. We are now able to prove to auditors that we have the ability to failover with Zerto's platform, providing the 'always-on' service that our colleagues and clients expect."

Billy Kirkwood
Burness Paull, IT Director

Challenges for Law Firms

- Ensuring information and application availability to support work-flow is integral to protecting business revenue, client information and maximizing billable hours

- The complexity of unifying disparate infrastructures introduced through mergers and acquisitions increases operational overheads and risk

- Maintaining application-consistent replication in heterogeneous IT environments requires multiple solutions that are difficult to manage and test

Leveraging the Zerto Platform in a Law Firm

Zerto delivers the aggressive service levels law firms need and minimizes data loss with continuous data protection. The billable hour is the central revenue unit of a law firm. If data is lost or work must be redone, the law firm loses money. Zerto utilizes continuous data protection to ensure minimal data loss within the organization. Zerto customers enable an enterprise-class DR plan with RPOs of seconds, versus the minutes and hours seen with other solutions. Consider this scenario: a law firm breaks up a billable hour into six 10-minute segments. If the RPO of the solution is 15 minutes, work has been lost for every lawyer in the firm for two billable increments. This can result in thousands of dollars lost.

A hypervisor-based solution enables the consistent protection of a heterogeneous environment. As law firms grow, the IT infrastructure becomes more and more diverse. Delivering a robust DR and data protection strategy is difficult, especially with technologies that are dependent on matching infrastructures. Zerto is a simple, software-only solution that operates within the hypervisor, ensuring application protection despite environment complexity.

Minimize risk with fast access to case data. Productivity and revenue is lost with every minute a lawyer cannot access or record case data. Zerto enables lightning-fast application or file-level recovery directly to production, ensuring lawyers can provide clients with the counsel they need at all times.

Reduce overhead costs to enable investments to provide a better client experience. Zerto can help reduce the operational and capital costs associated with DR, freeing up budget to increase the quality of legal services. Zerto can replicate between different types of storage and servers, extending the life of existing assets. The simplicity of Zerto allows IT administrators to spend less time managing the solution, freeing up resources for other urgent projects.

Benefits of the Zerto Platform for Law Firms

- Minimize risk and protect the billable hour with fast access to granular recovery data, including application and file-level restore direct to production—from a few seconds or a few years ago

- Management of storage agnostic replication across multiple hypervisors, disparate versions of hypervisors and cloud platforms is unified through a single interface, reducing complexity and management overheads

- Virtual Protection Groups (VPGs) enable consistent replication and recovery of high write-rate multi-VM applications, ensuring minimal downtime and data loss

Additional Benefit of Zerto	Description
Simple Protection	Complex management is an issue for most IT departments. Replication and automated recovery orchestration, all administered through a single pane of glass makes it easy to manage the DR process.
Virtual-aware	Zerto enables block-level replication of VMs, not LUNs; by replicating only what you need, network and storage requirements are reduced.
Aggressive SLAs	The inability to access and record case data, negatively impacts revenue and productivity. Zerto delivers RPOs of seconds and RTOs of minutes to ensure case and legal data is always available, maximizing billable hours.
No Impact	Zerto installs seamlessly into the existing infrastructure in under an hour, with no downtime required or disruption to the production environment.

Summary

Zerto ensures the protection and availability of client and case data so lawyers have access to the information they need to offer the best advice to clients. Leveraging a hypervisor-based replication solution eliminates dependency on hardware, reducing costs while providing a consistent DR and data protection solution. These savings can be reinvested to improve the quality of legal services, increasing case success rates.

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