

Retrospect Backup Helps Cardinal Newman High School Recover from California Wildfire



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Dirk Bietau
IT Director
Cardinal Newman High School

BUSINESS BACKGROUND

Cardinal Newman High School is a Catholic, college preparatory high school located in Northern California. It was founded in 1964 as an all-boys school, but when the local all-girls school closed in 2011, Cardinal Newman transitioned into a co-education school.

In October 2017, the devastating Tubbs fire destroyed half of the school. IT Director Dirk Bietau manages the school's infrastructure. "I got a knock on the door at 5:00 AM to evacuate my house. I picked up my computer, a personal hard drive, and the school's Retrospect backups on a different hard drive. Half the school burned down that day," said Bietau. The school's data--300 GB, including thirty years of transcripts--were saved. "People do request transcripts from the 1990s, and we can provide them."

OFFSITE PROTECTION

Offsite protection isn't difficult. Retrospect Backup made the workflow easy for Cardinal Newman to have a 3-2-1 backup strategy: 3 copies of the data, 2 storage media, and 1 off-site location.

Bietau used a QNAP NAS for on-site storage and four external drives for rotating on-site/off-site storage, with the middle two stored at home and the most recent and oldest at work for fast recovery.

Retrospect allowed Bietau to do specific schedules to different destinations, so that the strategy was as easy as unplugging one set of drives and plugging the other set in. Retrospect automatically ran

INDUSTRY

Education

ENVIRONMENT

- 300 GB of data
- 30 years of data
- QNAP NAS

KEY CHALLENGES

- Small budget
- Offsite protection

SOLUTION

- Retrospect Backup Single Server Premium for Windows
- Available at \$49 per month, \$499 per year, or \$899 perpetual

KEY BENEFITS

- Affordable backup with on-site and off-site workflows
- Reliable backup for decades

CASE STUDY

incremental backups based on the backups already on those drives.

Complete data protection does not have to be expensive or complicated. Technologies like cloud storage provide a great way to store offsite backups, but storing an external hard drive from work at home is an affordable alternative with fast throughput.

IT ON A BUDGET

IT in education does not have a large budget. Their goal is to ensure complete data protection with a great track record, minimal supervision, and an affordable price.

That's why Bietau chooses Retrospect. It works and doesn't break the bank. "Retrospect has been a great product over the years. We're happy to be a reference," said Bietau. His strategy with rotating hard drives enabled him to save the school's data.

STARTING FROM SCRATCH

After the fire, the first step was to restore the Retrospect backups. Bietau worked with MarinIT to restore the data because the school had no computers left. IT was up and running a couple of days later.

The school has a Bring-Your-Own-Device (BYOD) policy. Most of the school's computers are Apple, and the students use Google G Suite for their work. G Suite enables

students to store their homework online and access it at home.

Only staff have desktops and laptops, all backing up to a Windows Server with shared network drives along with 2TB drives for offsite storage. Bietau now stores the Retrospect backups at two offsite locations.

The Tubbs fire was not the first or the last Californian wildfire. Two years after the Tubbs fire, the Kincadee fire in October 2019 led to a local evacuation.

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ABOUT RETROSPECT

Protecting 100 Petabytes in over 500,000 homes and businesses in over 100 countries, Retrospect is dedicated to providing reliable backup and recovery tools for professionals and small-to-midsize businesses with Retrospect Backup and Retrospect Virtual, covering physical servers and endpoints, virtual environments, and business applications. With three decades of field-tested expertise, Retrospect meets the needs of organizations that require the highest level of recoverability. Retrospect is a proud member of the StorCentric family of brands.

www.retrospect.com