The Drobo Solution – Preserving Simplicity at Allegiance Health Management

Overview

Allegiance Health Management ("AHM") is a healthcare company in the business of owning and managing sites such as small hospitals as well as inpatient and outpatient psychiatric facilities located in Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi. Landon Dick was recently appointed CIO of the organization. He has decades of IT experience and has always taken a strategic vision when implementing IT architecture.

"We live in a world where IT has become extremely complex and the cost of managing the complexity always seems to skyrocket," states Landon. "I hold high regards for IT vendors that can preserve simplicity," said Landon.

Challenge

Landon walked into a position filled with older standards of server and network infrastructure. "I was busy trying to add new technology as well as standardize on specific software and platforms across the existing sites in place," he said.

Landon was keen on updating and simplifying his storage infrastructure and was focused on not overpaying for solutions that were overkill for AHM's environment.

Solution

Landon had known about Drobo's award winning storage products for small and medium sized businesses and individual professionals. He was drawn to the fact that AHM would have a simple control to execute storage deployments and using Drobo will make his job a lot easier. "I only have a small team so we needed something straightforward and reliable given the multitude of sites to manage," said Landon.

AHM will use the Drobo 5N for onsite backups and then secondary units offsite for replication. He will use standard mechanical drives for the 5N. "I can use what large SATA drives I have laying around to gain mass amounts of storage for backup and replication functions. The issuing of storage volumes has been greatly simplified to say the least," Landon said.

AHM has also invested in a Drobo B1200i for VMware ESXi storage. Landon will be using 3 SSD's with a capacity of 240GB each. The other 9 bays will be filled with 3TB Enterprise SAS mechanical drives. The plan for the B1200i will mainly focus on housing VM's that operate each of the site's webservers for hosting

Challenge

Finding the right solution for SMB's is a challenge. Customers are looking for effective data protection, with simple storage expansion and without the need to go through the time consuming and complex administration of configuring RAID settings. Meeting budgetary requirements should not mean sacrificing features.

Solution

AHM uses both the Drobo 5N and B1200i as an effective solution for their small IT team. They needed a solution that was straightforward, reliable and easy to manage. The B1200i will focus on housing VM's that will operate each of the site's web servers for hosting and other functions. The 5N will be used for onsite backups and secondary units will be housed offsite for replication.

> **❝** *I have been around IT for years, and the most important thing to a health-care company is security and simplicity. Drobo allows us to keep our data secure and provides us a cost-effective and simple storage solution.* **❞**

and various other functions. The goal is to eventually virtualize the domain controllers at the corporate office as well as their Exchange Server.

Landon also placed a high value on Drobo's propriety and patented BeyondRaid Technology. In the healthcare industry privacy and security are paramount. BeyondRaid prevents theft of disks and the easy recreation of sensitive data. "No other vendor can offer this at Drobo's price points," stated Landon.

Results

The 5N models offer simplicity for AHM's backup procedures but the B1200i will be the heart and soul of the corporate office. "I have been around IT for decades, and the most important thing to a healthcare company is security and simplicity. Drobo allows us to keep our data secure and provides us a cost-effective and simple storage solution," stated Landon.

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