

SPHINX PROVIDES FUTURE-PROOFED PROTECTION FOR MISSION-CRITICAL DATA

THE CHALLENGE

NEVER DELETE ANYTHING”
STRESSED BACKUP AND STORAGE
RESOURCES

“It’s all about the numbers,” said Roy Proctor, a senior technician at the City of Bossier City IT department. “You’re either trying to save more data, run backups faster, improve network performance, or cut costs to fit a budget.” The conundrum of making the numbers “work” is a challenge faced by every IT professional or department. Maintaining efficient running operations with a strict budget is especially critical for local government organizations whose customers include thousands of citizens, city departments, non-profit organizations, institutions, and different economic stakeholders.

For the City of Bossier City (Bossier), fast-growing data with no expiration date stressed existing storage systems. Backups were running past their allotted windows, replication was too long, and restoring data proved a complex, timeconsuming process involving too many resources and money. At the same time, rapid data growth demanded more scalable storage for Bossier’s vital information. Much of the data had to be maintained and archived indefinitely.

Bossier needed a way to streamline data protection while maintaining long-term information at the lowest possible cost to fit its tight government budget. Although resource consolidation and limited budget constrained Bossier’s allowance for new technology, protecting valuable government information could not have been ignored.



“The flexibility and simplicity of SPHINX are really what sold us. [...] It’s simple to expand as storage needs grow. Now we don’t have to go through the tedious tasks of having people groom their data continuously. We can save it all at a low cost”.
-Roy Proctor, IT Senior Technician at City of Bossier

BENEFITS



- Lower TCO for data protection
- Future-proofed archive with long-term reliability
- Data accessibility to meet mission requirements
- Faster backup and restores

City of Bossier City
Industry
IT Profile

<http://www.bossiercity.org/>
Government
LTO 6, IBM i Series



THE SOLUTION

SPHiNX EMPOWERS BOSSIER TO KEEP AND PROTECT ALL DATA

Bossier deployed two products to solve their backup, data protection, and long-term preservation challenges. SPHiNX improved all backup processes using Bossier's existing environment - which includes IBM iSeries. SPHiNX fit seamlessly into the existing architecture, delivering tangible benefits just days after the new installation. Proctor was tasked with maintaining the city's critical data for more than 500 systems, including sensitive government documents with no statute of limitations. According to Proctor, "We aren't keeping files just for 10 or 20 years; we're keeping them indefinitely." Having data accessible at all times and portable is also very important, as many city departments need quick access to data and any type of archive content. SPHiNX makes it easy for Bossier to guarantee the safety of sensitive city information. Features like encryption and file integrity checks ensure that data written to the archive is the same as data read, when recovered and restored.

SIMPLE AND EFFICIENT BACKUP THROUGH VIRTUAL TAPE

With the long-term archive now under control, Bossier also needed a way to improve backups for the data that remained on high-performance servers. Bossier's IT department needed a more efficient strategy for backup of their IBM i Series midrange servers that already included LTO tape IBM libraries.

With increasing amounts of incremental backup data, processes exceeded their allotted backup windows and compromised network availability for other operations. Bossier deployed the SPHiNX virtual tape solution to automate and streamline backups in the IBM i environment, along with replication processes.

"There's almost no comparison to our previous method using physical tape. SPHiNX makes recovery about 100 times faster, which means less downtime so that I can get people their data almost instantly". -Roy Proctor, IT Senior Technician at City of Bossier

THE BOTTOM LINE

Faced with time constraints and limited budget, Bossier needed to keep its IT center lean and efficient to meet the needs of the many city departments and citizens it serves. The two unique solutions worked with Bossier's existing infrastructure to improve overall network performance, reduce data protection costs, and simplify the preservation of irreplaceable data. "SPHiNX has been great to work with," Proctor concluded. "The team has always been quick to respond and crafted a solution that really fit my situation."



Wide Integration
Compliance
standards



Fast replication
Secure backup



Ease of recovery
Advanced
automation

By automating processes and having instant access to recovery data, the city departments have everything they need in order to store and backup their data. With the backup strategy already implemented, Proctor can focus on mission-critical initiatives rather than being tied down by tedious, manual processes.

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