

CommVault provides stevensdrake solicitors with a robust, reliable backup, data management and compliance solution for its business and critical data

New backup, data management and compliance solutions system provides better system manageability

QUICK FACTS

Industry/Solution:

- Legal

Platform/File System:

- Microsoft Windows 2003

Applications:

- Microsoft Exchange 2003

Partner Hardware:

- HP

Challenges:

- Consolidating its backup and data file storage
- Protect and control its data management from a single point

Solution:

- CommVault DataArchiver
- CommVault DataMigrator
- CommVault Galaxy Backup & Recovery

Benefits:

- Data more efficiently handled
- Accommodate future expansion more effectively
- Faster backups and data restoration
- Allowed stevensdrake to design its own disaster recovery and business continuity plan

Company Overview

stevensdrake was established in 1782 and is now one of the leading law firms in the South East of England. Based in Crawley, stevensdrake concentrates on two divisions – corporate law and private law. Its corporate law division encompasses a wide range of services, including company, corporate, property, employment, insolvency, debt recovery and litigation. This division also offers a range of services to commercial clients. stevensdrake comprises nine Partners, three Consultants, and 90 personnel in total.

The Challenge

stevensdrake's overriding objective was to maintain its leading position in the market by offering a wide range of services to an increasingly sophisticated customer base. However, it was clear that stevensdrake's business objectives could only be achieved if the business was supported by a comprehensive IT infrastructure.

A significant element of this was the need for stevensdrake to efficiently manage its backup and data file storage, a task that would involve consolidating its backup solutions. It also required a system that could restore data as quickly as possible. Increasingly, the need for a complete and fast disaster recovery solution was not only perceived as essential, but was also becoming a requirement of clients in the commercial environment that stevensdrake focuses on. stevensdrake would also need to control its data management from a single point if it were to protect its key data, and build room for future migration and growth.

stevensdrake had recently migrated from Novell Netware and GroupWise to Microsoft Windows 2003 Server and Exchange 2003 server as a result of a new debt recovery software solution it had recently implemented. It had also deployed Citrix Metaframe via a three-server farm in a bid to allow stevensdrake to maintain its investment in its existing PCs. These new implementations had resulted in a complex infrastructure, in addition to increased demand for a robust storage solution.

Finally, new legislation meant that stevensdrake had to ensure its storage infrastructure could retain its data for longer periods of time, an implication that could lead to spiralling costs if not managed effectively.

"In a legal practice, every possible precaution had to be taken, from a business sense and legally, to ensure that our data would not be lost" said Gavin Pickering, a partner at stevensdrake.

"In any competitive market such as the legal industry, it is vital to ensure that the business objectives are supported by the organisation's IT infrastructure, and clients' highly sensitive information can be kept as secure as possible" said Pickering. "A robust storage solution was crucial if stevensdrake were to maintain its leading position, in addition to offering new services."

The Solution

After outlining the data management infrastructure, stevensdrake scoped out a solution employing Commvault Galaxy Backup, DataMigrator, and DataArchiver solutions.

CommVault's suite of software provides fast, granular backup and recovery of distributed environments. "Unlike other solutions, Galaxy addresses storage resources and data as logical entities rather than physical resources," says Neil Harding, IT manager, stevensdrake. "Now our key legal data is logically mapped to storage resources, which means that the entire system is quicker and easier to manage."

Key to stevensdrake's storage solution was CommVault's DataMigrator software, which allows data migration to be managed centrally. Traditionally, system administrators tackled data growth by periodically deleting unneeded files from disk, a system that resulted in some files being mismanaged or sometimes ignored. Unlike these systems,

CommVault DataMigrator works by matching user availability and access with storage media performance, allowing stevensdrake to get the most efficient use from its storage resources.

Finally, CommVault's DataArchiver was implemented to meet stevensdrake's compliance requirements. The solution was crucial to stevensdrake, who needed a solution that would allow its IT administrators to store specific email data or move it to long-term archival storage media, whilst at the same time allowing it to be retrieved in a matter of minutes as the need arose.

Alasdair Kilgour, UK managing director at CommVault commented, "CommVault's family of products provides stevensdrake with a storage solution that gives them peace of mind on its data backup and archiving strategies. As new regulations come into force, the ability to manage data centrally is a fundamental first step of compliance."

The Results

Once the Galaxy Backup & Recovery, DataMigrator and DataArchiver solutions were fully implemented, stevensdrake was able to manage the system more easily and far more quickly.

"Thanks to CommVault, we are now able to manage our data more efficiently, and adhere to key data regulations," said partner Gavin Pickering.. "This in turn has allowed us to accommodate future expansion more effectively, in addition to allowing us to design our own Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity plan."

As a result of the implementation, the time taken to manage and backup was dramatically cut. Pickering concludes: "Thanks to CommVault, we can now save a significant amount of time when backing up and restoring information, a factor that we believe will allow the implementation to pay for itself many times over."

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