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#### CUSTOMER SUCCESS

## Tollbar Business and Enterprise College (BEC)

### 24x7 Protection for Student and College Data Using All-in-One Symantec and Dell Backup Appliance

Last year was a very special year for Tollbar Business and Enterprise College (BEC), the UK Foundation College. Education standards inspectors awarded the college the accolade of ‘Outstanding’, students achieved their best-ever results in GCSE examinations, and these results placed Tollbar BEC in the top one percent of all schools and colleges in the country. But there was another reason to celebrate. The college introduced an ‘all-in-one’, cost-effective data protection solution, based on the combination of a Dell PowerVault DL2000 backup-to-disk appliance, pre-installed with Symantec Backup Exec™ 12.5. The result is tight integration and granular recovery for the college’s Microsoft applications, as well as agentless VMWare ESX integration. Student and administrative data is safe and secure in this automated backup and recovery environment.

#### A mixed comprehensive college for 2,100 11-19 year-olds

Like almost every education environment, Tollbar BEC faces a struggle to manage rampant data growth against a backdrop of static or sometimes diminishing budgets. The phrase ‘doing more with less’ is frequently voiced along the school corridors. Lying on the border of North East Lincolnshire in the U.K., Tollbar BEC is a mixed comprehensive for 11-19 year-olds which currently supports up to 2,100 students—but the ageing nature of the College’s infrastructure was doing little to help the growing volumes of data.

On the negative side, the College was relying on an outmoded backup infrastructure based on existing physical hardware. On the positive side, Tollbar BEC has been a Symantec customer for almost a decade, and was using Symantec Backup Exec to support its end-to-end Microsoft Windows data protection strategy. Kevin Blake, IT network manager at Tollbar BEC, explains what happened next. “We were experiencing 100 percent year-on-year data growth, largely as a result of the online curriculum, students’ move to electronic learning, and more administrative tasks falling onto the servers. We had 60 servers altogether and a full backup to the autoloader was taking up to three days to complete.”

#### ORGANIZATION PROFILE

**Website:** [www.tollbarbec.co.uk](http://www.tollbarbec.co.uk)

**Industry:** Education Services

**Headquarters:** Grimsby, U.K.

#### SYMANTEC SOLUTIONS

Data Protection

### Why Symantec?

- Best-of-breed solution
- Support for VMware environment
- Existing track record with Symantec Backup Exec

The decision was therefore made to introduce a Dell disk array in a storage area network (SAN), coupled with a move to VMware virtualization. Given the existing positive, long-term experience with both Symantec and Dell, Tollbar BEC quickly concluded that the two vendors were best suited to supporting the new virtualized environment. “We considered Microsoft DPM and CommVault Simpana, but the factory-integrated solution from Symantec and Dell provides quick and efficient, disk-based backup and recovery. And having had such success with both vendors, why change a winning formula?” says Kevin Blake.

### Unified hardware and software data protection solution

Tollbar BEC has deployed a Dell PowerVault DL2000 backup-to-disk appliance, together with pre-installed Symantec Backup Exec 12.5 and custom disk management features developed exclusively for Dell. The result is one, unified hardware and software data protection solution allowing for easier management of Tollbar BEC’s backup to disk environment from a single console. “It’s one, single solution that provides Tollbar BEC with a simple, integrated solution for backup and recovery,” says Kevin Blake.

The solution incorporates Symantec Granular Recovery Technology (GRT) which allows the College IT team to perform a single-pass, application or system-level backup of their Microsoft Exchange, SharePoint, and VMware ESX environments while still maintaining the ability to recover individual objects, including files and folders. This eliminates the additional time and storage requirements of a second file-level backup, ensuring Tollbar BEC benefits from efficient data protection—and faster restores. “Overall, we’re completing our backups at least 60 percent faster now using the Dell PowerVault and Symantec Backup Exec disk-to-disk solution.”

“As the College extends its virtualized production environment, Backup Exec 12.5 cuts through complexity by enabling our team to backup an unlimited number of guest machines from a single agent,” says Kevin Blake. “Embedded technologies such as VMware Consolidated Backup also help to reduce the

## SOLUTIONS AT A GLANCE

### Business Drivers

- Protect student and administrative data
- Reduce the cost of protecting data

### Symantec Products

- Symantec Backup Exec™ 12.5 for Windows Servers with:
  - Agent for VMware Virtual Infrastructure

### Technology Environment

- Servers: 35 Dell servers
- Operating System: Microsoft® Windows® 2003.2008
- Applications: Microsoft SQL®, Microsoft Exchange®, and others
- Virtualization: VMware
- Storage: Dell PowerVault DL2000 backup-to-disk appliance

## BUSINESS VALUE AND TECHNICAL BENEFITS

### Data Protection

- Introduced one, integrated package to help automate backup and recovery
- Proven reliability and data protection functionality features of Backup Exec

### Flexibility

- Simplified, cost-effective appliance that is easy to set up and manage
- Introduced tight integration and support for VMware environment

### Reduced Costs

- Enabled cost-effective VMware licensing model
- Provided granular recovery of VMware environment and files

### Efficiency

- Completed backups at least 60 percent faster than before
- Centralized management and reduced time and complexity

amount of data we need to backup. The Symantec Agent for VMware Virtual Infrastructure integrates tightly with VCB without requiring scripting also reducing time and complexity. Taken together, the PowerVault DL2000 with Symantec Backup Exec centralizes the management of our backup and restore, configuration, and management into one single location.”

“Overall, we’re completing our backups at least 60 percent faster now using the Dell PowerVault and Symantec Backup Exec disk-to-disk solution.”

### Kevin Blake

IT Network Manager  
Tollbar BEC

### No need to regularly check the backups now

In addition, Tollbar BEC is using the integrated management console to set backup policies and conduct system monitoring and maintenance from a central location in the College. “There’s no need to check the backups now. And there’s no longer any danger they’ll creep into the working day,” he adds. “With our College increasingly moving to a 24x7 learning environment, where students log onto the network at any time of the day or night; we can be certain their data is secure, available, and there when they need it.”

He concludes, “The Dell PowerVault DL2000 Powered by Symantec Backup Exec is a simplified, cost-effective appliance that is easy to set up and manage, yet rich with powerful features. In particular, we’re impressed with the tight integration and granular recovery for Microsoft applications offered by the appliance as well as the agentless VMWare ESX integration.”

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