

Butterfly[®] IN ACTION

AUTOMATED BACKUP DATA MIGRATION

PUBLIC SECTOR

This is a real life case of a major public sector council authority illustrating the type of benefits Butterfly[®] Media Migrator[™] can deliver, consolidating data within an IBM infrastructure. The identity of the organisation involved has been omitted. All other claims are based on actual data obtained.

Butterfly[®] is an innovative, totally automated application that enables companies to fully realise their data backup and recovery cost, risk and energy reducing strategies by facilitating completely flawless consolidation of all historic compliance data from their legacy environments; quickly, safely, cost effectively and without disruption.

One of Butterfly's early clients was a large council authority in England, responsible for providing a number of public services and with a budget in the region of £500m. They initially approached IBM, their supplier of IT infrastructure, for help in resolving issues common to any major organisation having to deal with the backup and recovery of historical information records, with particular concern over their schools and colleges data.

Like most large enterprises, the client had invested in various hardware devices and media to store their pupil records which at various times had been replaced or overtaken as storage technology moved on. Over the eight years it had invested with IBM technologies the IT management teams had acquired three generations of Tivoli Storage Management software backup servers and over 3,000 physical tape storage devices, all of which had to be regularly audited. Over this time, the management of the infrastructure had become more and more complex, leading to some genuine concerns around performance and stability.

Not only were there costs involved in software licences and infrastructure maintenance, but specialist skills were needed to keep the tape libraries and software platforms providing ongoing backup operations functioning; ready to be called into action should they be needed for recovery of pupil and support worker data.

The problem

Apart from the increasing costs of maintaining a complex and

aged inefficient environment, staff were noticing real problems with recovering data, extended time in fixing problems, and inter operational issues resulting in a host of open support calls to the vendor.

At the same time, a new government ICT strategy directive set out guidelines for performance requirements for data recovery, security and retention. IT staff at the council immediately knew they would struggle to cope with these initiatives with the current infrastructure environment.

Not only were there overrunning backups and failures, but performance problems and operational issues meant they were unable to recover some records at all. All of their time was being spent trying to hold together a system which simply wasn't working.

A modern IBM version 6 ProtecTIER configuration had already been identified as a suitable strategic (target) solution to allow server consolidation and to efficiently capture and store all new backup and archive data being generated moving forward, which would more than adequately achieve the government standards.

However, that still left them the issue of their sizeable historic records, kept on an expensive, complex and unreliable solution.

The head of the project explained "The client was stuck in what is often called paralysis by analysis. They knew they had an issue with their historic data records, but they just didn't know where to start with solving it. They had already engaged with a consultancy about transferring the old data, but had essentially come up with a barrier in terms of manual effort and enormous costs simply to assess the problem."

Step forward Butterfly[®]

After a number of aborted internal consultancy projects, IBM approached the council with a revolutionary new tool developed by its partner, Backup Migrator Ltd. Utilising their



