CUSTOMER SUCCESS

Ritsumeikan University

Ritsumeikan University Streamlines Backup at Sites across Japan with Veritas NetBackup™ Appliances

In Japan, Ritsumeikan Academic Group has many campuses, stretching from Hokkaido in the north to Ōita Prefecture in the south. The group's ICT team needed to back up data for 70,000 students and employees across multiple sites and schools, and faced backup challenges. The team evaluated alternatives and chose Veritas NetBackup Appliances. Mr. Noboru Tanimura from the ICT team and Mr. Junichi Nishikawa from an ICT partner, World Business Center, comment on why NetBackup was chosen and how effective it has been.

R RITSUMEIKAN

ORGANIZATION PROFILE

Ritsumeikan University

en.ritsumei.ac.jp

Founded: 1900

Faculty structure: 14 Divisions, 20 Specialized studies

Students: 35,000

KEY CHALLENGES

Ritsumeikan University wanted to simplify back up of mixed physical and virtual environments at multiple sites, minimizing costs.

SOLUTION

The university turned to Veritas NetBackup Appliances to protect both physical and virtual environments, enable agentless backup, and automatically replicate data between sites.

BENEFITS

- Significant reduction in backup administration time, costs and complexity due to
  - Single solution managing virtual and physical backup
  - Automatic detection and agentless protection of new virtual servers
  - Faster deployment at new sites because of all-in-one appliance
- Enhanced disaster recovery due to replication of backup data between sites

Growing large

Ritsumeikan University began in 1900 when Mr. Kojuro Nakagawa founded the Kyoto Hosei Gakko (Kyoto School of Law and Politics). Mr. Kinmochi Saionji later renamed the school "Ritsumeikan," a name drawn from the Jinxin chapter of the Discourses of Mencius. The word conveys "a place to establish one's destiny through cultivating one's mind."

The founding ideals of Ritsumeikan are "freedom and innovation." Additionally, after World War II, the university reflected on its experience and committed itself to the philosophy of "peace and democracy."

Campus sites include Kinugasa and Suzaku in Kyoto City, Lake Biwa and Kusatsu, and Osaka Ibaraki, with satellite campuses in Tokyo and Osaka. The Ritsumeikan Academic Group is comprised of two universities (Ritsumeikan University and Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in Ōita), four senior high schools, four middle schools, and one elementary school.

❝With NetBackup Appliances, we can easily restore data remotely, and our operational burden has been greatly reduced. Licensing costs and tape operations have been minimized.❞

Mr. Noboru Tanimura,
Division of Information
Technology Services,
Office of Information
Infrastructure
Ritsumeikan University

Reliable yet flexible

As a result of growth, the university's Information Systems Division needed to provide ICT services to 70,000 students and employees, and protect their data over a broadband network connecting multiple sites. This environment is on the same scale as a major corporation in Japan.

In addition, each part of the university needs the flexibility to pursue its own educational policies and goals. The ICT team cannot drive policies from the top down. "We try to provide services that are capable and reliable, yet also self-governed as much as possible," Mr. Noboru Tanimura of the ICT team says. "It's important to find a balance between reliability and individual operation."

The backup challenge grows

The university's data includes educational and research results, course materials, and personal information for 300,000 people, including graduates. "This data must be not only be safe, but resilient, so that information on graduates can be provided at their request," says Mr. Tanimura. "We enhanced operations to protect data against both leakage and loss."

Cyber threats have been growing in sophistication, and the university had many new security priorities for ICT budgets. The challenge for the ICT team was to provide business continuity and disaster recovery for data as cost-efficiently as possible, so that funds could be available for other security needs.

In 2009, the university deployed a backup solution that mirrored data between two campuses to provide resilience. But the environment kept changing due to requests from multiple faculty groups within the university. The ICT team also expanded the use of server virtualization, creating mixed environments of virtual and physical servers. A different backup solution was required for virtual as opposed to physical servers, multiplying complexity.

In addition, almost all data was kept permanently. The university needed a retention policy that enabled it to expire certain types of data when they were no longer needed. Different sites had different requirements, however. "The number of operational tasks for backup was growing quickly, reaching the limits of our system," says Mr. Junichi Nishikawa, Senior Chief Engineer, World Business Center, an ICT partner of the university.
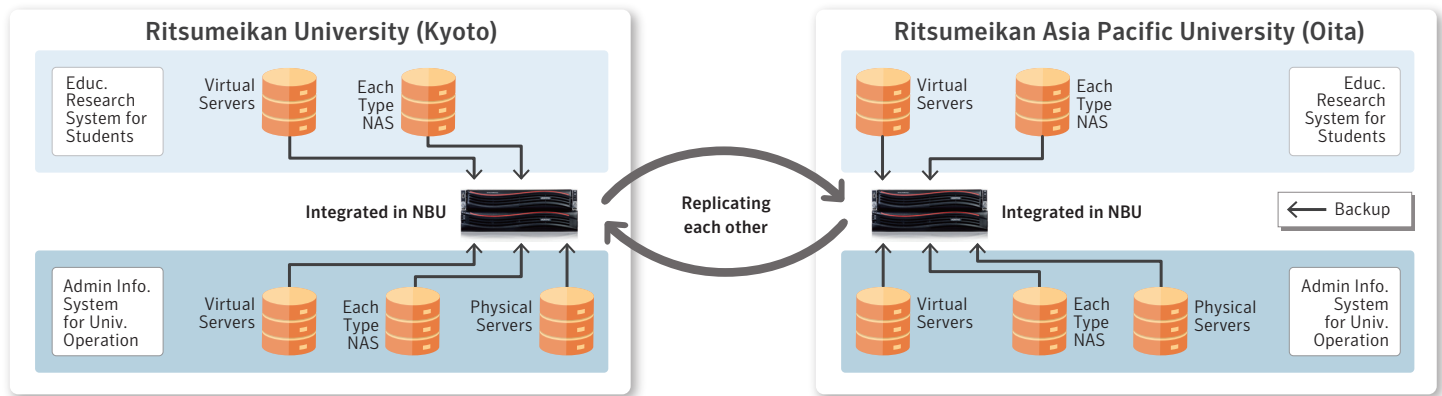
Simplifying with NetBackup

Ritsumeikan University decided to transform backup by seeking a single solution that could protect both physical and virtual servers, and replicate data between sites to reduce complexity. "We also wanted to eliminate the need to add a new backup agent and backup license for each new server we deployed," says Mr. Tanimura.

The university chose Veritas NetBackup Appliances after evaluating technologies from leading vendors. NetBackup enables the ICT team to manage protection for physical and virtual servers from a single console, eliminating the need for more than one backup solution. NetBackup automatically detects and protects new virtual servers, which also don't require backup agents at the virtual machine image level. This reduces processing requirements and speeds overall performance.

In addition, a NetBackup Capacity License covers total data protected. Therefore, when the university deploys new virtual servers, there is no increase in backup licensing costs.

SOLUTIONS

• Veritas NetBackup Appliances

VERITAS™

Ritsumeikan University (Kyoto) — Educ. Research System for Students, Virtual Servers, Each Type NAS, Integrated in NBU, Admin Info. System for Univ. Operation, Virtual Servers, Each Type NAS, Physical Servers

Replicating each other

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (Oita) — Virtual Servers, Each Type NAS, Educ. Research System for Students, Integrated in NBU, Backup, Virtual Servers, Each Type NAS, Physical Servers, Admin Info. System for Univ. Operation

"With routine backup work minimized, our team has more time for more strategic planning and operations projects. The NetBackup Appliances also deployed quickly. We plan on expanding their use, and are interested in using their ability to back up data to the cloud."

Mr. Junichi Nishikawa,
Senior Chief Engineer,
**World Business Center
Co.,Ltd., Kyoto**

Managing backup is easier because each NetBackup Appliance comes with software, server, storage, and networking, optimized and pre-configured in a purpose-built system that minimizes administration time. In addition, NetBackup Auto Image Replication (AIR) replicates deduplicated backup data between a NetBackup Appliance at each site. This enables a site's data to be easily and quickly recovered at a remote site when needed, speeding disaster recovery.

"Veritas Technologies provided a variety of technical knowledge and support in helping us improve the design and deployment of our backup solution," says Mr. Tanimura. "With NetBackup Appliances, we can easily restore data remotely, and our operational burden has been greatly reduced. Licensing costs and tape operations have been minimized."

Adds Mr. Nishikawa: "With routine backup work minimized, our team has more time for more strategic planning and operations projects. We could also deploy the NetBackup Appliances quickly. They required minimal testing. We plan on expanding their use, and are interested in using their ability to back up data to the cloud."

For more information
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