Coppell Independent School District Cuts Costs, Simplifies Storage with Future-ready Datrium Solution

COPPELL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT CASE STUDY

Datrium

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INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Empowering Educational Excellence

Public School District
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Challenge
Faced with constant budget pressure, Coppell Independent School District (CISD) needed to adopt a more cost-effective, versatile data platform for immediate and future needs.

Results
- Saving money now and in the future
- Went from 3 racks of storage to ½ rack
- 100% virtualized, 100% of data encrypted
- Time savings: 2 hours/person/week in maintenance
- Able to add advanced capabilities as needed

"As we embarked on the journey to consolidate our data centers, we needed a data platform that could keep all our data secure and scale out, without increasing costs or maintenance requirements. Datrium exceeded expectations in every aspect. It's a next-gen solution that meets all of our requirements today."

Stephen McGilvray
Executive Director of Technology, Coppell Independent School District

Company Challenge

Find a Smarter, More Cost-Efficient Storage Platform
Like many public school districts, Coppell ISD is always under pressure to do more with less. The demands on IT for the suburban Dallas district continue to rise while budgets remain flat. Coppell ISD supports 13,000 students in approximately 20 different buildings, all within a radius of five or six miles.

To help cut costs and streamline operations, Coppell ISD is currently planning to consolidate its two data centers into one regional data center. "We needed a data platform that could facilitate that transition, compound the savings, and evolve with our future needs," said Stephen McGilvray, Executive Director of Technology at Coppell ISD. "We found our solution in Datrium."

While the district's previous storage and backup solutions delivered adequate capacity and end-user performance, they were relatively expensive, limited in functionality, and difficult to maintain compared to Datrium's secure multicloud data platform.

Results

Datrium Cut Costs without Sacrificing – Anything
The two key criteria for moving to Datrium DVX were its flexibility and its cost-efficiency, according to McGilvray.

"We're running a pretty diverse workload," he said, including a student information system, an enterprise content management system, video surveillance workloads, virtual desktops, and various applications using web servers, app servers, and database servers. "In all, we're supporting around 250 VMs, and we needed storage that could support 100% virtualization in that diverse environment," he said. "Datrium gave us that at an affordable price."

Coppell ISD is currently using two Datrium DVX solutions in each of its data centers, and those solutions will also facilitate the data center consolidation plans. "With Datrium, we can run our full workload from either data center right now, and we believe Datrium has the replication and backup capabilities we'll need to streamline those processes once we consolidate," said McGilvray. Coppell ISD is currently testing and evaluating those capabilities along with Datrium's ControlShift disaster recovery (DR) orchestration solution.

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Less Infrastructure, Easier Maintenance
One of the biggest issues with the previous storage system was maintenance and management, according to McGilvray.

"It's a complex system, and everything was just a pain to upgrade," he said. "With Datrium, the day-to-day life of the people managing it has improved dramatically. When we were using the previous solution, v-motioning from one host to another took maybe 5 or 10 minutes. With Datrium's storage platform, it's on the other host before you even look. And when we're not spending time waiting, we're able to spend time improving the user experience and refining other services." McGilvray estimates the time savings in maintenance alone to be 2 hours per person per week.

Substantial Cost Savings, Now and Later
Datrium was the best multi-cloud data platform overall, and cost-efficiency was a key advantage, according to McGilvray. "There were immediate savings on licenses for VMware products, but the bulk of the savings were longer term, especially compared to other vendors," he said. Coppell ISD looked at 5 or 6 competitive options, but none had the combination of efficiency, performance, and long-term cost savings Datrium provided. Plus, Datrium gave us access to a lot of advanced backup and replication capabilities the others could not compete with."

About Coppell Independent School District
Coppell ISD is a premier public school system with a statewide reputation for educational excellence. This high-performing and innovative district serves over 13,100 learners in the communities of Coppell, Dallas (Cypress Waters), North Irving, Lewisville, and Valley Ranch. The majority of Coppell ISD is located in Coppell, TX, a suburb of Dallas. Coppell ISD is committed to working together to create profound learning experiences for each child, while nurturing meaningful relationships, to positively impact the world.

Learn more about Datrium at www.datrium.com.