rubrik

SugarCreek Supports vSAN Environment and Migrates to AWS S3 with Rubrik

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Michael Noone
Senior Systems Administrator

Founded in 1966 in Washington Court House, Ohio, SugarCreek is an innovative food manufacturer with six manufacturing and packaging facilities across three states in the Midwest. With annual revenues of more than $600M, the company helps some of the industry's largest and best-known companies develop "Brandworthy Food Solutions." SugarCreek employs over 2,000 people and serves clients across the United States and internationally.

SugarCreek has distinguished itself with its heavy investment in food safety, technology, state-of-the-art corporate lab, and extensive in-plant testing programs. Some of their comprehensive safeguards include real-time video monitoring, a range of detection equipment, and laser sorting.

Michael Noone, Senior Systems Administrator, is part of a three person team responsible for monitoring the company's servers, storage, and backup. "We're a lean team that has to keep all of these mission-critical applications running," said Noone. "As a result, we're always trying to innovate, so that we can be faster at helping the company."

SugarCreek has always prided themselves on being ahead of the curve when adopting new technologies. "We virtualized our mission-critical databases a decade ago, allowing us to minimize downtime in the event of hardware failures," said Noone.

Reliance on Consultants and Management Complexity with Legacy Solution

Prior to deploying Rubrik, SugarCreek had been dissatisfied with their legacy backup solution for several reasons, including an inability to automate workflows. "As a small team, we want to reduce the amount of busy work we're doing and instead create repeatable processes that can be automated," said Noone. "We also wanted to allow for more granularity in our SLA policies. We only had a few buckets for SLAs: missioncritical and production. We wanted things to be more granular and automated so that our users can define what works best for them."

SugarCreek had also chosen VMware vSAN as their primary storage solution. vSAN is a Hyper-Converged Infrastructure (HCI) solution that enables the convergence of physical storage onto industry-standard x86 servers.

"As a small team, it made sense for us to switch to vSAN since it provides one solution to manage our primary infrastructure and is very easy to set up new policies," said Noone. SugarCreek runs everything in their primary data center on vSAN and plans on expanding

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INDUSTRY

Manufacturing

RESULTS

- 90% management time savings
- Cloud mobility to AWS S3
- Streamlined compliance for audits

THE CHALLENGE

- Complex, time-consuming legacy backup
- Lack of automation
- Inability to granularly define SLA policies

THE SOLUTION

- One platform for automated backup, recovery, public cloud archival, and test/dev
- Integrates seamlessly with VMware vSAN
- Enabled easy integration to public cloud

their vSAN footprint into its remote sites. "We're excited that we found Rubrik because it works seamlessly with vSAN," said Noone. "The solutions have a similar distributed, scale-out architecture and the combination is much more costeffective than our previous solution."
In evaluating Rubrik, Noone was also excited by the possibilities of Rubrik's API-first architecture as well as the overall simplicity. "Rubrik really is a set-it-and-forget-it solution. You simply set policies, and Rubrik takes care of the rest," he said.

Cloud Data Management Helps SugarCreek Save Time and Move to the Cloud

SugarCreek uses Rubrik for backup, public cloud archival, and test/dev across their environment, which is 99% virtualized. They use Rubrik to protect Windows, Linux, SQL and Exchange, in addition to homegrown applications and their ERP. Benefits include:

Plug-and-Play: "From power on, Rubrik only took 20 minutes to install."

66% reduction in data center footprint: "As a result of switching to hyperconverged infrastructure and getting Rubrik, we went from 6 racks to 2 racks."

Single management interface: "Rubrik gives us a single pane of glass to manage data across all our applications, including Windows, Linux, SQL, Exchange, and VMware. With our legacy solution, we had to check multiple consoles. It's great for us to use Rubrik as our one central point and quickly see everything from a bird's eye view."

Adaptive throttling to minimize impact to production: "With our legacy system, we were worried that it would slow down the system when we implemented commands. Rubrik automatically detects workload characteristics to ensure there's no impact to production while protecting our data."

90% management time savings: "Previously, we could spend up to 10 hours per week monitoring our legacy solution and ensuring everything was working properly. Now we only spend one hour per week checking Rubrik."

Reduced RPOs for quick recovery: "The ability to Live Mount databases means that bringing backups online is painless."

Cloud mobility to AWS S3: "We had always wanted to move to the cloud, but it was too complex with our previous solution. Rubrik gave us an easy on-ramp to AWS S3. We're able to keep a day's worth of backups at our remote sites and migrate everything else to the cloud. We also like that Rubrik is cloud-agnostic, meaning we can archive to multiple clouds if we chose. Rubrik and AWS S3 allow us to keep our data longer without having to maintain that storage onsite."

Streamlined compliance for audits: "We have auditors coming periodically to make sure we have valid backups of mission-critical applications. With Rubrik, it only takes us minutes to pull our backup reports. With our previous solution, we had to show auditors how the backup process ran previously and make sure we could present them with a valid restore point. This process was very manual and required us to login to each individual server to find the report."

Leveraging Rubrik to Automate Audit Process and Accelerate Test/Dev

Noone is excited to automate SugarCreek's backup audits using Rubrik. "It's traditionally been a mess for us to validate that our backups can be restored. Rubrik allows us to perform backup validation by using our existing configuration management engines. Rubrik's suite of RESTful APIs will let us add backup validation workflows in just a few steps." SugarCreek's IT team is also looking forward to utilizing SQL Live Mount in the future for accelerated test and development. "Live Mount is going to give our SQL developers a lot more freedom. This will allow them to take a backup of our missioncritical data, Live Mount to their development environment and work from there if there's an issue in production."