



The University of Southampton Saves Time and Protects Mission-Critical Data with Rubrik and Azure

"Rubrik is managing our business-critical systems and ensuring they are up and running 24/7. That's worth its weight in gold in the confidence it provides us in the IT department. Now that we're using Rubrik, I know we can quickly recover instead of facing a steep uphill battle. The returns on functionality and recovery have been massive."

Ryan Harris

Senior Infrastructure Architect



UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton

Ranked among the top one percent of universities worldwide, the University of Southampton is a public research university with origins dating back to 1862. With more than 30,000 students and 8,000 employees, the university is the largest of its kind for higher education students in South East England. The University of Southampton is a founding member of the prestigious Russell Group, an organization committed to maintaining the very best research and teaching standards.

Ryan Harris, Senior Infrastructure Architect at the University of Southampton, is part of the Enterprise Systems Development team, which examines enterprise infrastructure trends and finds solutions that fit the university's requirements. "The university is focused on continually improving the student experience, which means our IT team has to maintain the highest bar possible. We need always-on data management services to deliver a seamless experience for our students and staff."

Rubrik has helped the University of Southampton's IT team reduce management complexity and ensure fast recoveries going forward. "We deliberately chose Rubrik because of its technology and cloud-native architecture that allows us to future-proof our infrastructure, ready for public cloud," said Ryan.

Limited by Complex Management and Lengthy Recoveries

As part of a digital transformation process, the university had previously moved to a new data center and revamped its IT to transition to virtualization. However, they found themselves constrained by their legacy backup solution.

"Our previous solution was very complicated from an infrastructure perspective," said Ryan. "We had one full-time employee dedicated to managing it. The solution also wasn't geared for virtual workloads and relied on traditional agent-based backups."

"We would often have to battle the legacy incumbent solution in order to make it work. Even when it was working, it wasn't really fit for purpose due to its age. As a result, it was no longer the correct backup and recovery solution for our modern data center requirements," said Ryan. "It was vastly outdated and needed a refresh."

To alleviate their burden with backups, the University of Southampton needed something that was built for modern IT. After doing their own research and working with a trusted vendor, they realized that a cloud-native solution was the best way forward. "We wanted a modern solution that would come in one easy-to-use platform as opposed to needing multiple hardware components, complex architecture, ridiculous amount of configurations, and one full-time employee to run it. Rubrik was exactly what we were looking for".

INDUSTRY

Education

RESULTS

- Near-zero RTO (from days to minutes)
- Significant management time savings
- Seamless cloud archival with Microsoft Azure

THE CHALLENGE

- Complex management with difficult-to-use solution
- Lengthy recovery times
- Limited scale with legacy solution

THE SOLUTION

- One solution for backup, disaster recovery, and archival
- Point-in-time recovery for physical SQL

Implementing Rubrik for Management Simplicity and Instant Recovery

The University of Southampton is currently utilizing Rubrik to protect all of their business-critical systems, including its website, student records, finance, HR and e-learning systems.

Benefits include:



Near-zero RTO: "With Rubrik, we recovered a three-tier database in 10 minutes with no effort whatsoever. With our previous solution, that could have taken two days, especially since we'd have to build and configure all the virtual machines, then recover any data back from tape. The difference is night and day."



Fast recovery in the event of a disaster: "We recently underwent a DR testing scenario with Rubrik and were able to recover all of our critical and priority systems within our designated recovery time/point objectives – a business first!"



Significant management time savings: "Our previous legacy solution required one full-time employee managing it daily. With Rubrik, we only need to spend 10 minutes per day reviewing it. Its simplicity affords us a reduced skill gap in the infrastructure team and any engineer is comfortable administering it."



Point-in-time recovery for physical SQL: "Previously, we weren't able to natively protect our SQL servers. We've now fully migrated all of our SQL servers to Rubrik, enabling us to search, drill in and restore back to 15 minutes if we need or Live Mount the database instantly."



Seamless archival to Microsoft Azure: "We are a cloud-first institution. Rubrik has allowed us to fulfill this mandate. We are storing all of our archived snapshots in Azure, which allowed us to increase our retention from 3 months to 6 months and achieve more granular control around our policies. With Rubrik and Azure, we have achieved long-term retention with affordable cloud storage."



Significantly reduced data center footprint: "Rubrik is only a fraction of our current footprint. Our legacy solution included a full rack of servers and storage, a 6-frame tape library with 24 drives, and not to mention the fibre channel or power and cooling costs. Once we're fully transitioned to Rubrik, it'll be taking up only half a rack of servers instead of half a data center floor."

ABOUT RUBRIK

Rubrik (RBRK), the Security and AI company, operates at the intersection of data protection, cyber resilience and enterprise AI acceleration. The Rubrik Security Cloud platform is designed to deliver robust cyber resilience and recovery including identity resilience to ensure continuous business operations, all on top of secure metadata and data lake. Rubrik's offerings also include Predibase to help further secure and deploy GenAI while delivering exceptional accuracy and efficiency for agentic applications. For more information, please visit www.rubrik.com and follow [@rubrikinc](https://twitter.com/rubrikinc) on X (formerly Twitter) and [Rubrik](https://www.linkedin.com/company/rubrik) on LinkedIn.