



# Backup Express

## Success Story: University of Minnesota Duluth

### University of Minnesota Duluth Ensures the Security of its Heterogeneous Enterprise with Backup Express

*"We were looking for something that would give us performance—we got that with Backup Express."*

Timothy Biles

System Administrator, University of Minnesota Duluth

#### Organizational Profile

- State university founded in 1895

#### Business Needs

- Backup critical information over heterogeneous environment
- Ease of use and performance

#### Environment

- Windows, NetWare, Linux and FreeBSD operating systems
- Overland Neo 2000 tape library with 30 slots

#### Benefits

- Provides speedy backups and restores
- Performs disk and tape backups in a heterogeneous environment
- Offers ease of use and performance
- Allows administrators to have confidence that data is safely backed up and can easily be recovered in case of disaster
- Novell support

#### The Challenge:

Located on the shores of Lake Superior, the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) offers programs in medicine and pharmacy, science and engineering, education and human service professions, among others. It may not be as large as some of its sister institutions in terms of student population, but the school still generates a significant amount of data that needs to be protected.

#### The Solution:

UMD's operating systems include FreeBSD, Windows, NetWare and Linux. In the past, this heterogeneity proved problematic for backup products deployed at the university. The biggest issue was successfully backing up the school's NetWare servers, where a significant portion of the campus data resides. When the decision was made to look for a replacement data protection solution, it was determined that three critical business needs had to be fulfilled in the new software: support for a heterogeneous environment, performance and ease of use. After a period of evaluating a variety of solutions on a small-scale test environment, UMD's IT staff decided on Backup Express from Syncsort Incorporated.

#### The Benefits:

The master server for Backup Express at UMD is a Dell PowerEdge 1750 running Windows 2003 with dual processors, 2.8 gigahertz, two gigabytes RAM, Pentium 4 chips, mirrored 36 hard drives and RAID1. The master server also acts as a device server, with a SCSI-attached Overland Neo 2000 tape library with 30 slots and two LTO-2 drives. Backup Express efficiently performs both disk and tape-based backups on a daily basis. Incrementals are done six days a week using a second Linux device server with a large SCSI-attached disk array. Three 500-gigabyte partitions are used to do catalog and incremental backups. Differentials are conducted once a week and full backups are done once a month.

Along with the capability to back up UMD's variety of servers—in particular the NetWare servers—successfully, the IT staff is impressed with Backup Express's ability to do quick and easy restores. For disaster recovery (DR) purposes, the staff keeps tapes at a building separate from the tape library location, and disk backups are sited on the other side of campus. "Backup Express figures very heavily in our DR plan," explains UMD System Administrator Timothy Biles. "All the systems that I administer are at least getting a full backup, and if something were to happen, like losing our server room, then we would definitely need our backups to get a good portion of our systems up and running. We were looking for something that would give us performance—we got that with Backup Express," concludes Biles.