

Name

Shane Allred
BYU Marriott School
of Management
www.marriottschool.byu.edu

Industry

Education

Location

Provo, Utah

Challenges

- Find a money- and time-sensitive off-site backup solution
- Ensure all faculty members are consistently backing up their data
- Be able to easily manage department backups

Benefits

- Assurance that all faculty members' data is secure
- The school's IT department is able to allocate its time and resources to helping give students the best education possible
- Secured a reliable backup solution at a reasonable cost

BYU Marriott School of Management Solves Time and Management Issues with Mozy Online Backup

"If data is critical and you can't do your job without it, an off-site backup solution is the best option. There are too many things that could happen."

As director of technology for Brigham Young University's Marriott School of Management, Shane Allred knew backing up files was not a priority for busy faculty members. Yet for Allred, the thought of losing critical research and teaching data was continually on his mind. That was before switching to off-site backup with MozyPro in July 2008. Now Allred and his team can focus on duties more important than backup, like helping faculty give the best education to their students.

Nestled beneath the mountains of Provo, Utah, the nationally-ranked Marriott School of Management at Brigham Young University strives for excellence. The school not only provides a great business education for its students, but also seeks the best protection for department data.

Managing all computers and servers in the school, along with its website, keeps the IT staff busy enough. Add to that the responsibility to make sure faculty and administrators' data is safe and secure, and they have a challenging job.

In the past, the school had encouraged its staff to back up their data, but the logistics of how to do so were not generally discussed, and the school didn't have a product in place to support backup. As a result, many faculty members didn't back up at all.

Faculty members had suffered hard drive crashes before and anxiously waited while expensive methods were employed to retrieve their data. However, the biggest fear of Technology Director Shane Allred was large-scale data loss. Part of the school underwent massive reconstruction, and an arc welding accident, fire, or other disaster could have been devastating.

"I felt strongly that all this critical data shouldn't be in one place," Allred said. "Any former backup solutions we employed were stored in-house, and having off-site backup became essential."

MozyPro was the off-site backup of choice because it offers management tools that its competitors don't, making it an ideal fit for the Marriott School. Since switching to MozyPro, the technology department is breathing a little easier. With the other backup providers, Allred couldn't tell who was backed up. MozyPro gave him that capability by generating custom reports through the Admin Console, which he uses constantly.

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While many assume it doesn't matter where or how data is backed up, just as long as it is backed up, Allred believes there is a greater cost and risk associated with such methods. For example, many of the faculty members spend years on their research and developing course materials. Should a fire or theft occur, typical backup methods do not allow for easy data retrieval. Having reliable, off-site backup with MozyPro enables faculty to quickly retrieve their data and continue working without losing their research. The automated system also alleviates the pain of data backup.

"I don't have to think about it," Allred said. "Mozy is also great for faculty because they don't have to think about it either."

The U.S. economy has had an impact on virtually every industry. Like most educational institutions, BYU has cut budgets and spending. For the Marriott School, this means money must be spent wisely and on proven, critical technology.

"With Mozy, we know how much it costs each month and we believe that it's worth the expense," Allred said.

For the technology staff, anything they can outsource, especially if it's done better by someone else, is a win. The ability to focus its efforts on other things and leave the core backup responsibilities to MozyPro has been a relief.

"The administrative features are huge for us," Allred said. "Faculty members are pulled a lot of different directions and don't want to bother with it, but we have to know if they're backed up. Mozy allows us to manage it for them. We looked at other offerings but eliminated them because they didn't offer those management tools. The management abilities were a huge sell for us."

The hands-off and automated reporting benefits of MozyPro have allowed the business school's faculty to give their best to students, while knowing their important data is safe and secure.

"If data is critical and you can't do your job without it, an off-site backup solution is the best option," Allred said. "It's just gambling otherwise. There are too many things that could happen."

About the Marriott School of Management

The Marriott School is located at Brigham Young University, the largest privately owned, church-sponsored university in the United States. The school has nationally recognized programs in accounting, business management, entrepreneurship, public management, and information systems. The school's mission is to prepare men and women of faith, character, and professional ability for positions of leadership throughout the world. Approximately 3,000 students are enrolled in the Marriott School's graduate and undergraduate programs. For more information, visit www.marriottschool.byu.edu.

Contact MozyPro

sales@mozy.com

P 877.669.9776

F 801.443.1801

www.mozy.com