Cedar Lake Health and Rehabilitation Center Gets Disaster Recovery Peace of Mind with Alike DR

The Need to Securely Protect Medication and Health Records Data

For the Cedar Lake Health and Rehabilitation Center in West Bend, WI, disaster recovery is a mission-critical business requirement. At stake is the health and well-being of nearly 229 people who call the skilled nursing care facility their home.

Cedar Lake Health and Rehabilitation is part of Cedar Community, the nation's 89th largest non-profit continuum of care organization. Cedar Lake serves the varied residential needs of more than 1,000 elderly and disabled individuals in Southeast Wisconsin.

"When it comes to disaster planning, we can't take any chances," says Cathy Willett, systems administrator in the IT department. "Our data includes critical medication information and health records for our residents. If we were to have a disaster, it would be a scary situation."

Fortunate for Cedar Lake, they've never had a disaster large enough to cause any loss of health information. It's also fortunate for Cedar Lake they have a robust disaster recovery strategy based on sound business processes and the Alike DR solution from Quadric Software.

According to Willett, after Cedar Lake completed a major hardware upgrade — adding 14 IBM Blade Servers at the main site and six Blade servers at a nearby DR site—she and her team sought a specialized software solution that could support a demanding recovery point objective (RPO) and recovery time objective (RTO).

After a thorough evaluation of the options, Systems Programming and Solutions, Inc. (SPSI), the company that provides outsourced IT support to Cedar Lake, recommended the Alike DR disaster recovery solution.

Company Profile

Organization

Cedar Community (Cedar Lake Health and Rehabilitation Center)

Location

West Bend, Wisconsin

Industry

Skilled Nursing Care

Number of Employees

700

Revenue

$39 million

Alike's Value

- Fast and secure protection for mission critical medication and health records information for 229 skilled nursing care residents.
- RTO reduced to just a few minutes, and reduced RPO by 300%
- Global deduplication saves space and recovery time
- Ability to resume normal operation quickly in the event of a disaster
- Ability to replicate their critical virtual systems from their XenServer pool at the main campus to their secured DR servers

"By implementing the Alike DR solution, we were able to reduce our Recovery Time Objective (RTO) to just a few minutes."

-Cathy Willett, Systems Administrator, Cedar Lake

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Cedar Community Dramatically Reduces Their RPO and RTO with Alike DR

Cedar Lake implemented Alike DR where it functions as an integral component of a disaster recovery strategy that includes a nearby dedicated DR site that gets electricity from a separate power grid and a systematic approach to DR testing.

Cedar Lake uses the Alike DR to replicate their critical virtual systems from their XenServer pool in the main campus over a Fiber WAN link to their secured DR servers. Thanks to Alike's highly efficient replication engine, only a tiny fraction of the virtual machine (VM) data is sent over the network to keep the DR systems in sync.

"Thanks to the Alike DR solution, we've reduced our recovery point objective (RPO) for critical medical information from six hours to two hours during the first year of operation," Willett says.

According to Tim Casey at SPSI, Alike's advanced deduplication technology plays a major role in helping Cedar Lake meet its RPO objectives. "Because of the performance and efficiency of Alike DR, we've been able to shrink Cedar Lake's RPO by 300%, as well as provide them with a simple means of verification and auditability," said Tim Casey, principal partner, SPSI. "This helps to dramatically minimize the impact a disaster would have on their organization, and get them up and running immediately."

"By implementing the Alike solution, we were able to reduce our Recovery Time Objective (RTO) to just a few minutes," Willett said. If one of our servers were to crash, we would simply turn off that server and turn on the appropriate server in the DR Center," she says. "We could be back up and running in only a minute or two."

Cedar Community Plans to Expand use of Alike DR

Willett, whose organization has responsibility for all of Cedar Community's IT requirements, has plans to expand the use of Alike DR in the future.

"At this point, we are looking to use Alike DR for backing up and protecting the servers that house our home health care and hospice data," she says.

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IT Environment

Infrastructure

14 IBM BladeCenter® H series at the main campus and six at a dedicated DR site

BDR Solution

Alike DR

IT Outsourcing Partner

Systems Programing and Solutions Inc. (SPSI)

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