

Castilleja Keeps Instructional Time Running with Rubrik



RESULTS

- Near-zero RTO and instant file search (RTO=minutes vs. an hour)
- Multi-purpose use case support (test/dev)
- Data center footprint reduction (11U vs. 2U)

THE CHALLENGE

- Lengthy RTOs required re-hydration on primary storage
- Expensive capacity overhead required by backup software
- Additional software licenses needed to support other use cases beyond recovery

THE SOLUTION

- VM and file-level recovery for virtualized environment
- Re-purpose backup data for staging & test/dev
- Public cloud for pay-as-you-go long-term data retention

Founded in 1907, Castilleja is a Palo Alto independent school dedicated to educating young women from grades six to twelve. Penny Pritzker (US Secretary of Commerce and highly successful entrepreneur businesswoman), Emily White (former Snapchat COO), and Laura Arrillaga Andreesen (founder and chair of Silicon Valley Social Venture fund) are among the notable alumnae. Castilleja currently enrolls 438 students with an average class size of 15 and 6:1 student to faculty ratio.

LONG RECOVERY TIMES WITH PREVIOUS BACKUP SOFTWARE SOLUTION

When Terry Young joined Castilleja starting as a network administrator two years ago, he began creating a framework for re-vamping the IT infrastructure based on environment needs. "In resource-strapped academic institutions, a common challenge is using infrastructure built in a hodgepodge fashion. Things are tacked on over time, resulting in a fragmented architecture vs. a holistic one that can address evolving needs," explains Young.

Avoiding downtime is just as important in academia. "Every minute counts. The success of our faculty depends on IT's ability to support instructional time," says Young. Castilleja experienced two service outages as upgrades were applied to live systems. After dealing with lengthy recovery times (up to an hour), Young started investigating alternative backup and recovery solutions.

IMPLEMENTING A COST-EFFECTIVE, MULTI-PURPOSE CONVERGED BACKUP SOLUTION

"Before Rubrik, our backup and recovery infrastructure was comprised of a re-purposed storage array, single server hosting the backup software, and tape library. My prerequisites for a new backup solution were to simplify the number of components needed, physically separate from production and ability to run recovery directly from it with no performance loss. This in turn alleviates the lengthy time it would take to re-hydrate data back to production because of performance issues. The ability to utilize capacity efficiently, support multiple use cases beyond recovery and be cost-effective were

equally important.” In Rubrik, Young fulfilled his requirements for a new backup solution. “With Rubrik, I know it just runs.”

Rubrik now protects the entire Castilleja infrastructure, delivering:

- **Near-zero RTO on the same solution stack** – “The biggest relief is the time to recover. If faced with another application outage, I have the confidence to get the VM up and running in a matter of minutes without re-hydrating on a separate stack because of performance worries.”
- **Efficient capacity utilization for lower TCO** – “Our previous backup software solution was fairly easy to use but was saddled with hidden costs driven by performance constraints due to its incremental, reverse incremental approach. This necessitates the need to have twice as much storage capacity as necessary. In comparison, Rubrik offers a forward incremental forever approach. Compared to our previous solution if I continued with it, Rubrik was 10% less in overall capex spend.”
- **Multiple use case support** – “The ability to instantly mount backups on Rubrik allows us to stage upgrades before we roll out to production. The sandboxing capabilities are intuitive and easy-to-use.”
- **Reduced datacenter footprint** – “We have reduced our datacenter footprint from 11U (8U for storage, 2U for tape, 1U for backup software) to 2U for a converged backup solution, resulting in substantial power, cooling, and space savings.”
- **Easy on-ramp to cloud** – “Rubrik’s support of Amazon S3 helps us ease into cloud services at a cost curve that we’re comfortable with. Over time, we see Rubrik as a vendor-agnostic platform to help us utilize multiple cloud services, from archiving data to migrating and running workloads in the cloud.”

GOING FORWARD ON A MODERN INFRASTRUCTURE

With Rubrik, Castilleja can finally shift from using tape to public cloud for data archival. “One of the goals this year is to define data retention policies. We’re thinking through how far back we want to retrieve data, now that we aren’t burdened with additional overhead in managing physical tapes.”

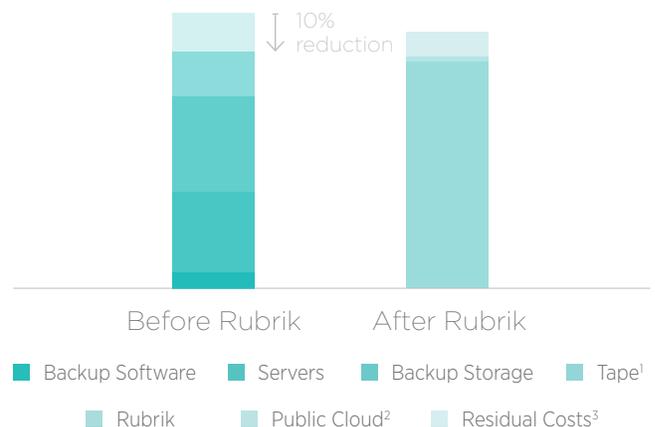
In addition, Young is investigating a greater deployment of virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) on top of his modern infrastructure, which includes all-flash arrays within the primary environment.

“If we host desktops in the data center, we need to have a backup solution that can recover instantly, more frequently, and more granularly. The combination of Rubrik and our all-flash arrays helps us deliver high application performance, while providing granular, reliable recovery.”

– TERRY YOUNG | CASTILLEJA

TOTAL HARD SAVINGS BEFORE AND AFTER RUBRIK

Initial HW/SW Acquisition Costs + Annual Spend on Maintenance/Support/Services



Notes:

1. Media, maintenance, off-site handling
2. Long-term data retention storage and transfer costs
3. Includes contractual maintenance,
4. All costs include initial capital outlay and annual recurring spend