



CASE STUDY **BRYANT UNIVERSITY**  
INDUSTRY HIGHER EDUCATION

# FINDING A CLOUD ALTERNATIVE TO A LEGACY STORAGE INFRASTRUCTURE



**At-A-Glance:**

Bryant University is a 150-year-old private university in Smithfield, RI. Bryant offers business and liberal arts programs to more than 3,200 undergrads and regularly manages as much as 160 terabytes of data.

**Challenges:**

Bryant’s existing tape backup storage infrastructure was no longer viable in the face of growing data storage and support demands.

**Goals:**

Bryant wanted to shift to a cloud-based storage model, to improve the cost, reliability and agility of its data management strategy.

**Business Outcome:**

Bryant selected NaviCloud Vault, a pay-as-you-go storage platform to ensure high data availability and uninterrupted performance. Bryant expects to save about \$36,000 over the next three years.

**ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW:  
BRYANT UNIVERSITY**

Bryant University is a 150-year-old private university located in Smithfield, Rhode Island. Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), Bryant offers innovative and uniquely integrated business and liberal arts degree programs to more than 3,200 undergraduate students from 32 states and 63 countries. In supporting its student body, faculty and staff, the University regularly manages as much as 160 terabytes of data.

**Challenges**

At Bryant University, all students receive IT-issued laptops and are encouraged to use smartphones and tablets to collaborate with faculty and peers. The University also provides students with access to a state-of-the-art online learning management system, Blackboard, which enables them to do everything from access class resources to virtually submit assignments. Initially, Bryant leveraged IBM’s Tivoli Storage Manager (TSM) to back up all University-managed data on physical tape drives, which it stored on campus as well as offsite via a third-party data backup company. Within two years, the growth in complexity of its learning management system, coupled with the proliferation of student and faculty devices—and application endpoints required to support those devices— led to a 300 percent increase in the amount of data the university stored and managed.

Bryant quickly realized that hardware, maintenance and staffing costs associated with expanding its current storage solution would become prohibitive as the quantity of data it managed continued to grow. Additionally, while students, faculty and staff depended on Bryant’s storage solution to provide 24/7 availability, even when users had urgent requests to retrieve archived or mistakenly deleted files it often took the University’s IT staff days to uncover the files within the existing tape-based storage infrastructure. Considering the TSM tape drive system used a proprietary command line interface to operate, restoring a file could only be executed by select IT personal. This inability to respond rapidly to the 10-20 one-off restore requests per month damaged student and faculty productivity in and of itself. Beyond this key limitation, the University’s current storage solution also lacked overarching disaster recovery capabilities. The time and cost associated with manually restoring the university’s entire storage solution in the event of a disaster would have been significant—potentially straining or stalling several of the university’s regular, daily functions

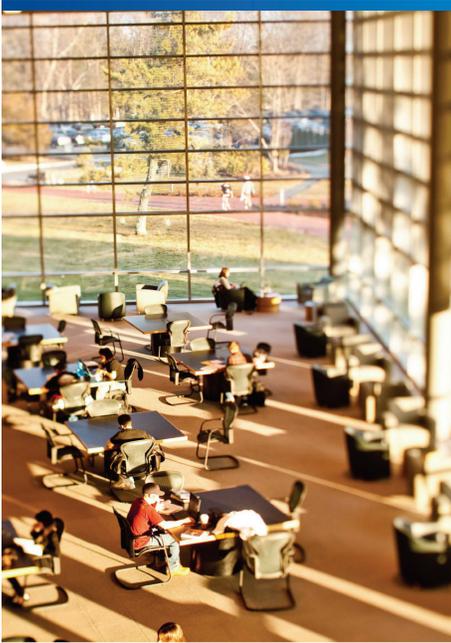
**Goals & Solutions**

Bryant University needed an innovative solution to better manage its growing data, alleviate the burden of maintaining legacy devices – from both an IT resource and cost perspective – and to ensure uninterrupted performance of networks and applications, even in disaster scenarios. Bryant was



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**"Information is the lifeblood of a university, and the technology to manage it underpins the entire academic experience. We need to backup, protect access to and secure that data", said Chuck Locurto, VP and CIO at Bryant University.**

also eager to shift to a cloud-based model, eliminating tape back-up from its infrastructure to improve the cost, reliability and agility of its data management strategy.

NaviSite was able to decouple Bryant's stored data from its physical tape infrastructure by using Actifio to shift data storage to NaviCloud Vault, NaviSite's offsite, cloud-based storage solution. Designed to provide enterprises with a secure, highly available, replication target, NaviCloud Vault was a crucial addition to Bryant's data protection and replication strategy. By leveraging the robust network of OSHEAN, Inc., a mutual partner, Bryant was able to connect its storage system directly to NaviSite's enterprise-class data center. This solution provided the University with support for enhanced business resiliency as part of its overarching BCDR strategy. NaviSite worked closely with Bryant and OSHEAN to customize the solution, enabling enhanced flexibility and on-demand scalability, which allowed Bryant's IT staff to respond more quickly to student and faculty requests, such as restoring deleted and archived files.

"As with most organizations, we're seeing an explosive growth in data. Unfortunately, tape back-ups are costly, time consuming and it takes a while to find the data you're looking to use," said Rich Siedzik, Director of Computer and Telecommunications Services at Bryant University. "Our solution is now more digitized. By leveraging NaviSite technology, combined with replication solutions, Bryant University was able to realize cost savings resulting from the reduced amount of replicated storage required in the Cloud."

Previously, Bryant was challenged with uploading large files to a remote data center,

as well as retrieving data from offsite data centers. OSHEAN's network now allows Bryant users to connect directly to NaviSite's infrastructure, enabling users to avoid latency and network jitter issues typically associated with off-net cloud service providers. "Information is the lifeblood of a university, and the technology to manage it underpins the entire academic experience. We need to backup, protect access to and secure that data", said Chuck Locurto, VP and CIO at Bryant University

### Results

Since implementing NaviSite and OSHEAN technology, Bryant has experienced a smooth transition and increased agility in managing and accessing data. NaviSite's state-of-the-art data centers provide the power and environmental conditions required to maintain high data availability and to ensure uninterrupted performance for students and faculty. At same time, OSHEAN's network delivers dependable connectivity. The new complete solution has helped Bryant encrypt all of its data and, in doing so, to meet a number of industry compliance regulations, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (GLBA) and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). "The solution was such a great fit, we wished we had done it sooner," said Siedzik.

Additionally, [NaviCloud Vault's](#) pay-as-you-go model has allowed Bryant University to experience cost benefits by lowering the total cost of ownership of its storage solution. With NaviSite and OSHEAN, Bryant has realized a more than 70 percent time savings for operations personnel, as well as a more simplified IT management process. These savings have freed up funds,



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allowing Bryant to reinvest 15-20 percent of its budget into new IT capabilities. The team is continuing to phase out tape storage and expects to save approximately \$36,000 over the next three years. NaviSite and OSHEAN's custom solution enabled Bryant to avoid significant upfront capital expenditures and to leverage a dependable, scalable storage and data replication solution.

### Summary

Bryant University was using legacy infrastructure to maintain immense data workloads for their growing student body and needed a more reliable solution to ensure 24/7 availability of IT systems. By

leveraging the network of mutual partner OSHEAN, Inc., Bryant was able to shift data storage to NaviSite's off-site, cloud-based NaviCloud Vault, increasing business agility and decreasing total cost of ownership.

"We consider both NaviSite and OSHEAN our trusted partners and continue to leverage their expertise and capabilities to build an innovative IT system," said Rich Siedzik, Director of Computer and Telecommunications Services at Bryant University. Bryant continues to experience optimal performance and customer service from both NaviSite and OSHEAN and is currently exploring NaviSite's Desktop-as-a-Service (DaaS) and cloud storage solutions.

### About NaviSite

NaviSite, Inc., A Time Warner Cable Company, is a leading worldwide provider of enterprise-class, cloud-enabled hosting, managed applications and services. NaviSite provides a full suite of reliable and scalable managed services, including Application Services, industry-leading Enterprise Hosting, and Managed Cloud Services for organizations looking to outsource IT infrastructures and lower their capital and operational costs. Enterprise customers depend on NaviSite for customized solutions, delivered through a global footprint of state-of-the-art data centers. For more information about NaviSite's services, please visit [www.navisite.com](http://www.navisite.com)