

QUALSTAR

▶ **CASE STUDIES IN SUCCESS**



CARROLL COLLEGE

PROTECTS ITS

EDUCATIONAL

RESOURCES

& DATA

WITH QUALSTAR

TAPE LIBRARIES



QUALSTAR[®]
The Tape Library Experts

▶ **WE HOLD THE WORLD'S RECORDS**

CASE STUDIES IN SUCCESS



“The information we store simply can’t be replicated; losing it would truly be a disaster for thousands of people. Qualstar makes it possible for us to ensure that the data will be there when we need it most.”

Ryan Corcoran,
Systems Administrator

THE COLLEGE

Carroll College, founded in 1846, is a private coeducational liberal arts college located in Waukesha, Wisconsin. The college attracts full- and part-time students from around the United States and 27 countries worldwide and offers more than 40 areas of study ranging from accounting and business administration to nursing and theatre. Carroll College features a liberal studies curriculum, where students can earn bachelor degrees in the arts, sciences, medical technology and nursing, as well as master degrees in physical therapy, education and software engineering.

THE CHALLENGE



Debra Jenkins, Carroll College's Chief Information Officer (left), and Ryan Corcoran, Information Systems Administrator (right) discussing the benefits of the Qualstar upgrade.



Carroll College faced the same challenge many small- to mid-sized businesses increasingly face: its students, faculty and staff were storing progressively greater amounts of information. Backing up that information, in a direct-attached environment, took longer and longer to complete. The college's IT staff regularly ran full backups of between 80 and 100 gigabytes with each one requiring more than 48 hours to finish. Carroll College's existing autoloader, running on a Windows 2000 server, was not capable

of meeting the college's growing needs. "Things went from bad to worse," said Ryan Corcoran, Carroll College's Systems Administrator. "With enrollment increasing and the amount of data being stored rising as well, we were always missing something because data invariably changed, even as we were running the full backup. We needed a larger and more robust backup system to address an unspoken fear: that we couldn't keep up, and would at some point lose information that was vital to our mission."



THE SOLUTION

Corcoran worked with a national storage solution partner to determine the College's immediate and growing needs for an effective and efficient way to resolve their data storage



Students rely on Carroll College's systems for a wide range of computing, internet and storage needs.

dilemma. "We had several 'must-haves,'" said Corcoran. "We required a system that would give us faster backup times, be capable of simultaneously backing up data on multiple drives, and handle more tapes than our old system. And it had to be available at a reasonable price."

They quickly realized that Qualstar's TLS-8211 LTO tape library provided the answers they were seeking. The TLS-8211 delivers the benefits of Qualstar's *Simply Reliable* Automated Tape Library design, giving users

ULTRIUM 2
ENTERPRISE



technology choices without compromising quality or reliability. Corcoran appreciated its ability to store more than two terabytes of compressed data on 11 LTO Ultrium tapes, with a maximum throughput of 216 gigabytes per hour.

The TLS-8211 can also be easily expanded, in under an hour, to double its capacity to over four terabytes.

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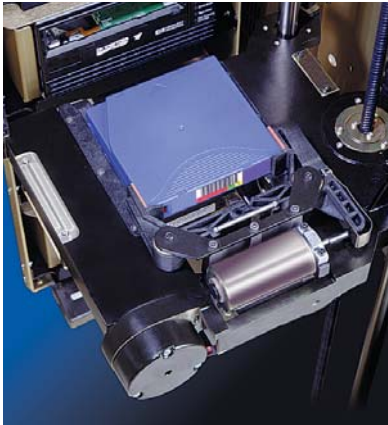
THE SOLUTION, CONTINUED

"The TLS-8211 was exactly what we needed," Corcoran stated. "It cut our backup time dramatically, giving us much better performance and storage capabilities." Installing the Qualstar tape library enabled Carroll College to expand its schedule to perform more efficient incremental backups during the week,



Chris George, IT Staff (standing) and Ryan Corcoran, Information Systems Administrator (kneeling) loading tapes into the Qualstar Library.

even as it expanded the number of servers to meet the school's increasing data load. Full backups are still



performed every week across various servers; the Qualstar TLS-8211 runs multiple backups at the same time, making the entire process far more efficient than ever before.

"It's difficult to attach a specific return on our investment," Corcoran stated, "but I do know I spend far less time managing data backups and restores. That's a true benefit, as is the increased peace of mind we get. The information we store simply can't be replicated; losing it would truly be a disaster for thousands of people. Qualstar makes it possible for us to ensure that the data will be there when we need it most."

THE FUTURE

Carroll College is researching an upgrade to its storage topology, which would move it toward a network-based configuration. "Direct-attached storage has met our needs up to this point, but a SAN- or NAS-based solution seems to be a viable alternative as the school continues to grow," Corcoran said. "Qualstar's tape libraries have already proven their reliability and ability to grow as our needs escalate; we'll be looking at their products as part of our ongoing solution."



The compact size of Qualstar's TLS-8211 allows it to integrate easily into the Carroll College Data Center.

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