

Acronis® Provides Disaster Recovery Fit for King's Academy



Technology at the Middle East's leading educational establishment

King's Academy is an independent boarding and day school based on His Majesty King Abdullah II's vision to have an educational establishment in Jordan that embraces the same academic rigor, breadth of extracurricular activities and respect for community ethics and values that he experienced as a high school student at Deerfield Academy in the United States.

The school campus was designed by renowned Egyptian architect Khaled Azzam. It is constructed on an extensive 575-dunum site (144 acres) and is comprised of 23 major buildings. These include state-of-the-art classrooms, a 50,000-book library, a multi-faith spiritual center and garden, dormitories incorporating faculty and family apartments, and a magnificent auditorium.

Blending an American style of education with Middle Eastern history, traditions, language and cultural values, the Academy strives to have the most current technology resources believing that education and technology go hand in hand. As such, each of the 400 students and 65 faculty members are equipped with a laptop and can access the internet across the entire campus, whether in their dorm room or the Student Union.

Mr. Mohannad Maswady, IT Technical Manager at the King's Academy said, *"The pupils here benefit from a continuous stream of activities for which they need constant access to their computers. A typical day begins with breakfast at 6:45 am, followed by an all-school meeting, classes throughout the day, and afternoon co-curricular activities. In the evenings, study hall is held from 8:00 pm-10:00 pm."*

With such a broad range of activities and dedicated time to studying, there is little room for system downtime. When the school first opened in 2007, the IT team was using software from BakBone® to run its backups on the 15 servers which underpin the school's IT infrastructure. However, unhappy with the slow speed of the backups, in 2008, Mr. Maswady decided to re-evaluate the school's existing backup and recovery strategy.

Organisation:

King's Academy

Sector:

Education

Key challenges:

Existing backup and recovery tool restore times were too long

Environment:

- A mix of 500 HP tablets /laptops
- 25 HP servers

Solution:

- 1 licence of Acronis® Recovery for Microsoft Exchange™
- 15 licenses of Acronis® Backup & Recovery™ 10 Advanced Server for Windows
- 100 licenses of Acronis® Snap Deploy® 3 for Workstations

Business Benefits:

- Recover from system downtime or virus attack with 20 minutes
- School's laptops consistently up and running
- Easy deployment at the beginning of each academic year

System downtime never exceeds 20 minutes

Mr. Maswady ran a full and intensive testing of solutions on the market including Symantec® and Acronis. Having been impressed with its performance in the tests and being familiar with the solution from previous use, Mr. Maswady opted to implement Acronis to protect the school's servers and its Microsoft® Exchange email system. The fulfilment of the order and implementation of the project was managed by reseller Senior IT, with efficiency and no disruption to regular network requirements.

In July 2009, the Academy upgraded to the latest version of Acronis' software, Acronis® Backup & Recovery™ 10. Mr. Maswady was immediately impressed with the ease of use of the solution, noting that, *"The Acronis solutions are extremely intuitive with a simple and easy to use GUI. When I upgraded to the latest version, I immediately warmed to the new console which was even easier to work with. The interface of Acronis Backup & Recovery 10 makes the backup and recovery process easier to manage."*

Using Acronis' disk imaging technology, Mr. Maswady takes a full backup of the Academy's servers once a week. The automatically scheduled weekly backups are also supported by twice daily incremental backups to ensure that if the systems fail at any point in the day, the school has an up-to-date copy of all the students' and faculty members' data. The image backups are stored on disk technology and network drives.

For Mr. Maswady, the real strength of the solution lies in the most important aspect of backup and recovery, the speed of recovery. *"Since installing Acronis we have had two or three incidents of system failure due to causes such as virus attacks. In each of the cases the systems have never been down for more than 20 minutes due to the excellent restore capabilities of Acronis. We also noticed that Acronis Backup & Recovery 10 offers faster restores than the previous version of the software. The major challenge within any disaster recovery plan is to find the best solution that can minimize downtime,"* comments, Mr. Maswady. The downtime was minimized thanks to Acronis because the Academy is now able to work on more than one platform at a time.

Planning for future pupils

The Academy also takes advantage of Acronis' deployment solution, Acronis® Snap Deploy® 3. At the beginning of each academic year, each of the students' laptops needs to be reimaged to a base image. Mr. Maswady has been impressed with the solution finding it a very fast and efficient way to make new images and customize them as needed. He explained that *"Having an integrated PXE environment is a great feature and means our service to our users is much better than it used to be, with minimal time and effort. This is the only solution we would consider for deployment"*.

Mr. Maswady summarizes, *"The reliability that Acronis provides us with is worth more than millions. In addition, the support and advice that we have with Seniors IT means that we are confident in our DR strategy. As we expand, we will be purchasing more servers and we will ensure that we protect these with Acronis."*

About Assupol Life

At King's Academy students enjoy an educational experience unlike any available in the Middle East. The diversity of the curriculum and co-curricular activities are inspired by the highest international standards of educational achievement and are what make the Academy a model for the region. Our students learn not just through books, but through play and through participation in the local community, ensuring the development of each student's ethics, self-reliance, social responsibility and sense of camaraderie.

www.kingsacademy.edu.jo.

About Acronis

Acronis is a leading provider of easy-to-use backup, recovery and security solutions for physical, virtual and cloud environments. Its patented disk imaging technology enables corporations, SMBs and consumers to protect their digital assets. With Acronis' disaster recovery, deployment and migration software, users protect their digital information, maintain business continuity and reduce downtime. Acronis software is sold in more than 180 countries and available in 13 languages. For additional information, www.acronis.eu. Follow Acronis on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/acronis>.



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