



A Good Investment: A Private Business Cloud Solution

Investment firm gains automatic computer backup, remote data access and plenty of growing room with WD Sentinel™ DX4000 small office storage server powered by the Intel® Atom™ processor.

Saratoga Research & Investment Management (SaratogaRIM) is an investment advisory firm in Saratoga, California, that manages approximately \$740 million for high-net-worth individuals, retirement accounts, trusts, endowments, religious institutions and foundations, many of which are located in California's Silicon Valley.

The company kept its confidential client data safe in its office, but employees often needed access to the data while traveling or from home, so they could provide the best customer service. SaratogaRIM Director of Operations, James Tanner says: "People kept telling us to put our data 'in the cloud,' but we didn't want our client data on someone else's machines."

Tending to the firm's existing storage device was time consuming for Assistant Portfolio Manager David Lii, who doubles as the firm's IT manager and must also ensure that the firm's 13 PCs are successfully backed up.

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James Tanner,
Director of Operations,
Saratoga Research &
Investment Management



Compact and Powerful Business Management

After upgrading the company's network and other technology elements to accommodate its fast-growing client base, both Tanner and Lii sought to identify a reliable, on-premise storage device that would back up the firm's computers automatically, give employees remote access to data, be easy to use and provide plenty of room to grow. They found a solution that did it all: WD Sentinel DX4000 small office storage server.

WD Sentinel is a network-attached storage (NAS) server designed for small businesses. It provides up to 9 terabytes of enterprise-class RAID storage and easy remote access using the Remote Web Access feature of the Windows® Storage Server 2008 R2 Essentials operating system from Microsoft®.

"The WD Sentinel Dashboard is really easy to use, and connecting our PCs to the server was a piece of cake," says Lii, who had WD Sentinel up and working in a matter of minutes.

WD Sentinel is powered by a dual-core Intel® Atom™ processor, which delivers extremely fast backup and file transfer and supports business continuity through its outstanding reliability. "We never wait on WD Sentinel," Lii says. "It works as quickly as we do, which is important in our fast-paced office."

SaratogaRIM wanted a storage investment that could scale with its business growth without requiring frequent and expensive upgrades. It is using just two of the WD Sentinel's four drive bays and has an option to double the capacity. "We had to upgrade our previous NAS three times; but with WD Sentinel, we have enough room to stay ahead of our business and data growth," Lii says.

WD Sentinel offers simplified and automated RAID management and capacity expansion so that small businesses like SaratogaRIM can enjoy a higher level of data protection without sophisticated technology skills.

Secure Remote Access

Best of all, SaratogaRIM employees can now access their data anytime, from anywhere, using any computer, smartphone or tablet with an Internet connection. A few months ago, some employees were at a conference and found themselves in a conversation where they needed the firm's quarterly financials. "They were instant-messaging those of us in the office, asking for the data," Tanner says. "If we'd had WD Sentinel, they could have accessed the data themselves using their smartphones. Having uninterrupted access to our data from anywhere is a very powerful feature, especially when out of the office. It's like a private business cloud right in our office, but with none of the risks associated with storing our confidential client data on someone else's machine."

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David Lii, Assistant Portfolio Manager,
Saratoga Research & Investment Management

Saving Money, Too

SaratogaRIM's WD Sentinel investment has been one of its best. The company has been able to eliminate 13 client backup software licenses, an annual savings of several hundred dollars a year, and frequent upgrades of its previous NAS hard drives, which ran into hundreds of dollars.

"WD Sentinel automatically backs up our PCs, which is one less thing I have to worry about," Lii says. "Also, thanks to the deduplication feature in WD Sentinel, we're not making multiple copies of the same information. Our backups are much faster and we're saving a lot of disk space, which translates into significant savings. We'll also be able to get rid of our file server, which is one less server to manage and maintain."