

## Academy Sports & Outdoors

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Cliff Barnhart, Manager of Infrastructure Technologies, Academy Sports & Outdoors

### Company Profile

- Based in Katy, Texas
- One of the nation's largest sporting goods retailers
- Operates more than 50 stores in seven states
- Annual growth of approximately 25% for the past 10 years
- [www.academy.com](http://www.academy.com)

### Business Needs

- More reliable backup system
- Cross-platform backup capability
- Easier manageability of backup

### Environment

- Compaq Servers
- Novell Netware, Windows NT, Windows 2000, and Macintosh operating systems
- Exabyte tape library
- Gigabit Ethernet network

### Products Used

- VERITAS Backup Exec for Windows NT and Windows 2000
- VERITAS Backup Exec Agent for Lotus Notes
- VERITAS Backup Exec Agent for Macintosh
- VERITAS Backup Exec Intelligent Disaster Recovery Option
- VERITAS Backup Exec Library Expansion Option
- VERITAS Backup Exec Remote Agent for NetWare
- VERITAS Backup Exec Remote Agent for Windows NT and Windows 2000

### Business Benefits

- Improved administration efficiency
- Reduced backup time per gigabyte while adding additional storage
- Created reliable system wide backup

### The Situation

As one of the nation's largest sporting goods retailers, Academy Sports & Outdoors operates more than 50 stores in seven states. It has experienced a consistent annual sales growth of approximately 25% for the past 10 years.

Regardless of the speed and sophistication of a computing environment, when data is lost, it all comes down to one factor — the backup system. Academy Sports & Outdoors had definite data availability issues. The backup system Academy had implemented to protect the company's systems was difficult to use and unreliable. It was clear to Academy that a change was needed. However, its computing environment was heterogeneous and had unique backup needs.

The systems that Academy Sports & Outdoors used can be placed into two categories: office systems and core systems. The office systems run the desktop applications such as Lotus Notes and word-processing programs. They operate in a mainly Compaq environment running Novell NetWare. Academy uses a few Windows NT and Windows 2000 servers for specific applications. They also have a large Macintosh-based art department that produces its advertising circulars and generates about 300GB of data that requires backup.

In the two years that Academy used its old backup software solution, there was spotty performance leading to unreliable backups. "The support for the product just wasn't there," says Cliff Barnhart, Manager of Infrastructure Technologies at Academy. "To complicate matters, there were very few people on our staff who could troubleshoot the product due to the complexity of the user interface."

### The Solution

Academy turned to its technology partner, Accudata Systems, Inc., a VERITAS Vplus Premiere Partner. "We recommended that Academy adopt VERITAS Backup Exec for Windows NT and Windows 2000," says Richard Wise, account executive at Accudata. "We've had consistently successful results when VERITAS Software was involved. VERITAS Software's level of support for Backup Exec has been excellent."

Academy evaluated VERITAS Backup Exec for Windows NT and Windows 2000. "When we saw VERITAS Backup Exec, we realized that the product would support all of the different platforms that comprised our network", says Barnhart. "We had some experience with VERITAS in the past and recognized the reliability of the product. This was a perfect fit." Academy chose VERITAS Backup Exec, including the VERITAS Backup Exec agents for NetWare and Macintosh, VERITAS Backup

Exec Intelligent Disaster Recovery Option, and VERITAS Backup Exec Library Expansion Option.

Once VERITAS Backup Exec was selected, it took Accudata a single weekend to get the new solution running for Academy. "This installation was a snap," says Barnhart. "It worked with all of our systems — Windows NT, Novell NetWare, you name it." With VERITAS Backup Exec installed, Academy noticed no increase in the time it took to complete the full backups it performed weekly. "The time to perform the backups was the same; however, when we installed VERITAS Backup Exec, we also installed more drive space with additional information," says Barnhart. "The VERITAS solution was able to back up more data without any significant time increase." A satisfied customer is a win for Accudata Systems as well. "The important thing for us is that we have a long-time, loyal customer who is happy for the first time in a few years," says Wise.

### **The Success**

Since installing VERITAS Backup Exec, Academy has been pleased with the integrity and completion of the weekly backups. Most importantly, Academy has saved administration time due to VERITAS Backup Exec's simplicity. "Now that we have an interface that is easy to use, all of the network engineers are able to perform pretty much any function that needs to be done," says Barnhart. "The majority of the process is automated; however, when issues come up, we are able to handle them more quickly and in a more efficient manner."

In an effort to move toward a more heterogeneous environment, Academy has developed plans to consolidate its data into two Microsoft Windows 2000 servers with a combined data storage space of 600GB. "One of the benefits of having VERITAS Backup Exec is that we can go into this move feeling confident that our data-protection piece is still in place," says Barnhart. "We will continue to use VERITAS Backup Exec in our new environment and plan to have it well into the future."

Academy is also exploring the deployment of VERITAS Backup Exec in its stores. "We currently have 51 retail stores with Microsoft Windows NT servers in each one. These servers handle all of the in-store functions such as labor distribution and office automation," says Barnhart. "We are looking into placing VERITAS Backup Exec into each store to protect our critical data there as well."

Barnhart says, "Data availability is key to what we do and VERITAS Backup Exec is an integral part of that. From an administrative standpoint, it has dramatically simplified our lives. The product is stable and easy to use, it's interoperable with our environment, and it scales with our needs."

### **VERITAS Software Corporation**

Corporate Headquarters  
350 Ellis Street  
Mountain View, CA 94043  
650-527-8000 or 866-837-4827

For additional information about VERITAS Software, its products, or the location of an office near you, please call our corporate headquarters or visit our Web site at [www.veritas.com](http://www.veritas.com).