



Customer Location
Winnipeg, Canada

Industry
Education

Platform
Microsoft Office SharePoint
Server 2007

Critical Needs

- Access to file share content through SharePoint without the need for migration
- Efficient deployment-wide management of SharePoint security and settings
- Easy reorganization of SharePoint content
- Automated deployment of changes and custom solutions across multiple sites

AvePoint Solutions
DocAve File Share Connector
DocAve Content Manager
DocAve Deployment Manager
DocAve Administrator

"Thanks to DocAve, end-users can access all file share content and even items in networked personal 'Home Folders' from any location through SharePoint."

- Karen Strubhar – SharePoint Administrator, River East Transcona School Division.

Case Study: River East Transcona School Division Accesses File Share Content through SharePoint and Efficiently Manages 1,200 Sites with DocAve®

Success Highlights

- Accessed more than 600 GB of file share content from anywhere through SharePoint, preventing the need for migration and saving significant amounts of time and labor
- Implemented permission sets for 1,200 sites in one hour, saving three full days of labor
- Restructured more than 800 sites in one week, saving several months of labor
- Deployed new master pages and custom solutions for more than 800 sites in a matter of days, instead of weeks required by native tools

Customer Profile

River East Transcona School Division is the second largest school division in Winnipeg, consisting of 42 schools serving approximately 16,500 students with 1,200 teachers and 650 support staff workers. River East Transcona's mission is to provide relevant, progressive educational programming and supportive services in a safe, stimulating learning environment.

The Challenge

With schools spread throughout Winnipeg, as well as a large network of faculty and students, River East Transcona needed a software platform to build its school websites and store important content for students, teachers, and administrative staff. The division ultimately chose Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007 for the job, utilizing the platform to create sites for all 42 schools within the division. Additionally, all 1,200 of River East Transcona's teachers maintain their own sites in order to effectively communicate with students and provide relevant content to their classes. Including the students who access the sites, faculty, and support staff, River East Transcona's SharePoint environment currently has approximately 18,000 end-users. The division's server farm consists of one web front end, one SQL server, and one development server.



While River East Transcona found SharePoint to be a proficient tool for website creation and overall communication, administrators eventually encountered several challenges due to the platform's native abilities. First, administrators needed an efficient way to implement settings across many of the division's sites. In order to maintain an optimal storage level, administrators planned on implementing quotas for each of the teacher sites within its environment. Unfortunately, native tools would have required administrators to carry out the process manually. Since the division had 1,200 teacher sites, this would have been extremely time consuming and laborious.

In addition to SharePoint, River East Transcona administrative staff use file shares to store and access content, including legacy documents created before the division implemented SharePoint. While they could access SharePoint content from anywhere, staff could not access file share content outside of school, and instead relied upon flash drives and email to bring work home. Administrators felt staff would benefit greatly from the convenience of access to file share content from home through SharePoint. However, SharePoint had no native ability to connect with file shares.

With the need for both simplified SharePoint content management and connection to network file shares, River East Transcona administrators sought a third-party software solution.

The AvePoint Solution

River East Transcona used IBM's Tivoli Storage Manager (TSM) for Microsoft SharePoint as a backup and recovery solution. TSM for SharePoint utilizes AvePoint's DocAve Backup and Restore for SharePoint functionality through an OEM agreement. After investigating several third-party solutions, administrators arranged to view a demo of other

AvePoint solutions due to their satisfaction with the data protection product. AvePoint's DocAve Software Platform integrates more than 30 independently deployable modules which function within a unified, browser-based interface and fully distributed architecture, but can also be purchased and deployed independently. "AvePoint's demo blew us away," said Karen Strubhar, SharePoint Administrator for River East Transcona. "We were impressed with DocAve as a unified platform and the many possibilities it offered for enhancing and managing our SharePoint deployment."

River East Transcona administrators were certain DocAve was the right solution for their needs as soon as they witnessed DocAve File Share Connector. After implementation, DocAve enabled River East Transcona's end-users to collaborate upon network file shares directly through SharePoint. Connected content appeared as normal SharePoint content, and could be leveraged exactly as if it were residing within a SharePoint document library. All of SharePoint's powerful document management functionality – including permissions management, workflows, alerts, and versioning – could be applied to connected content.

With DocAve Connector, administrators were finally able provide home access to file share content. "Thanks to DocAve, end-users can access all file share content and even items in networked personal 'Home Folders' from any location through SharePoint," Strubhar said. "This has only been accessible from desktop computers at the office until now." Since migration was not required, significant amounts of time and labor were saved as River East Transcona was able to keep the majority of its data outside of SharePoint and the SQL server.

DocAve Administrator for SharePoint effectively solved the division's site quota implementation issue, granting administrators universal control over the division's enterprise-wide SharePoint environment to implement



effective SharePoint governance policies through SharePoint security and settings management. "We were able to implement permission sets for all 1,200 sites at the same time instead of individually," Strubhar said. "This took about an hour of our time, as opposed to native functions, which would have required about three full days to carry out the job."

River East Transcona also found significant value in DocAve Content Manager for SharePoint, which addressed the division's need to periodically reorganize SharePoint's information architecture to meet evolving business needs. On one occasion, administrators needed to move and restructure more than 800 sites. With DocAve's centralized browser-based interface and dual frame layout, the job took only a week of time. All sites were retained in full fidelity, including all metadata, securities, version histories, and customized layouts. "Without DocAve, restructuring 800 sites with native tools would have been difficult and tedious," Strubhar said. "The project would have likely taken an entire summer to complete."

Administrators also saved valuable time with DocAve Deployment Manager for SharePoint. Deployment Manager offers a robust solution that automates the change management of SharePoint solutions, customizations, and web front end elements. Administrators were able to accurately deploy new master pages and custom solutions to more than 800 sites in just a few days, as opposed to carrying out the process with native tools and spending weeks on the project.

The Bottom Line

With AvePoint, River East Transcona was able to solve several major challenges facing its SharePoint deployment. In addition to solving those problems directly, DocAve's unified platform enabled a wide variety of SharePoint enhancements for both administrators and end-users alike. As they

implemented and utilized DocAve, administrators were consistently pleased with AvePoint's live global technical support. "The response from AvePoint's support staff is instantaneous," Strubhar said. "They're always ready for us whenever we need them."

In the near future, River East Transcona will develop plans to upgrade its environment to SharePoint 2010. "After we upgrade, DocAve will continue to play a major role in our deployment," Strubhar said. "The need for modules like Connector will only increase as new users are added to the environment and data is created and accumulated at an even faster rate."

About AvePoint

AvePoint is a global technology company and proven software leader. Since its founding in 2001, AvePoint has become one of the world's largest providers of infrastructure management software solutions for SharePoint, offering a fully integrated solution for SharePoint lifecycle management. Propelled by one of the world's largest SharePoint-exclusive research & development teams, AvePoint helps more than 8,000 customers – including many Fortune 500 companies and government agencies – meet their specific business objectives by unleashing SharePoint's full potential. AvePoint, Inc. is headquartered and maintains its principle engineering center in Jersey City, NJ, with wholly owned sales and engineering centers in the USA, Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Japan, Singapore, and China. AvePoint is a Depth Managed Microsoft Gold Certified Portals and Collaboration Partner and Gold Certified ISV Partner as well as US Government GSA provider via strategic partnerships.

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