

## How we made IT work...

# Arkeia back-up system gives peace of mind to Sandwell College

**Thanks to BCNS, Sandwell College can now be confident that all its systems and data are securely backed-up and can be recovered with ease.**

Sandwell College is one of the main further education providers in the West Midlands. It attracts students from across the region, offering a diverse range of courses in everything from motorsports to multimedia. In spring 2012 the college moved into an iconic new £77m building in central West Bromwich, consolidating three campuses into one.

### Fragmented, unreliable back-up

The college had struggled for some time with a range of disjointed and unreliable back-up systems which presented a risk to the recovery of data in the event of a system failure. This, coupled with the preparations for the move to the new campus, led to the decision to find a more reliable and efficient solution. The challenge was to achieve a stable, centralised system that would back-up data from across the entire network, including physical and virtual (VMWare – vSphere) servers, regardless of the platform.

### Proven expertise

The skills that BCNS could provide were well-known to Amir Kanwar, Head of Network Services at the college. We had previously helped design and implement an e-mail, log-in and file storage system for Sandwell's students, accessible from anywhere across the three campuses - so Amir was happy to call on our services again to help create the new, streamlined back-up system.

### Choosing Arkeia

The system we recommended was Arkeia Network Backup. Fast and easy to use, the Arkeia system is ideally suited to an organisation of Sandwell College's size. It also gives the benefit of supporting more than 200 different platforms – useful for the college, which uses a mix of Microsoft, Novell and Linux systems. As an Arkeia Premier Partner, BCNS knows the technology well and was able to supply and install it with minimal disruption. Ensuring the system could be used to the full was vital, so we also provided on-site training for the college's three-strong network team.

### Successful, reliable results

Since the project was completed in spring 2010 the results have been impressive: a fully-functioning, reliable back-up system, fit for one of the country's leading FE colleges.

**Sector:** Education – FE college

**Client:** Sandwell College,  
West Bromwich

**System:** Arkeia Network Backup  
([www.arkeia.com](http://www.arkeia.com))

including:  
Arkeia Enterprise Pack  
eDirectory agent  
vStorage agent  
MS SQL agent  
Oracle RMan agent  
Bare metal recovery  
4 tape drive library  
Shared storage option  
De-duplication option



Whilst working with BCNS I discussed my concerns about our approach to

backups, which had been on a system-by-system basis. This ad-hoc approach had resulted in a very complex set of operations, using different solutions and even versions of solutions. Michael Mena and Rodney Freeland presented a number of alternatives, of which Arkeia seemed to fit our needs the best. Alan Tucker delivered onsite training and initial installation support. We now have peace of mind. On more than one occasion we have recovered 'lost' files for users and even entire systems for colleagues."

Amir Kanwar, Head of Network Services  
Sandwell College