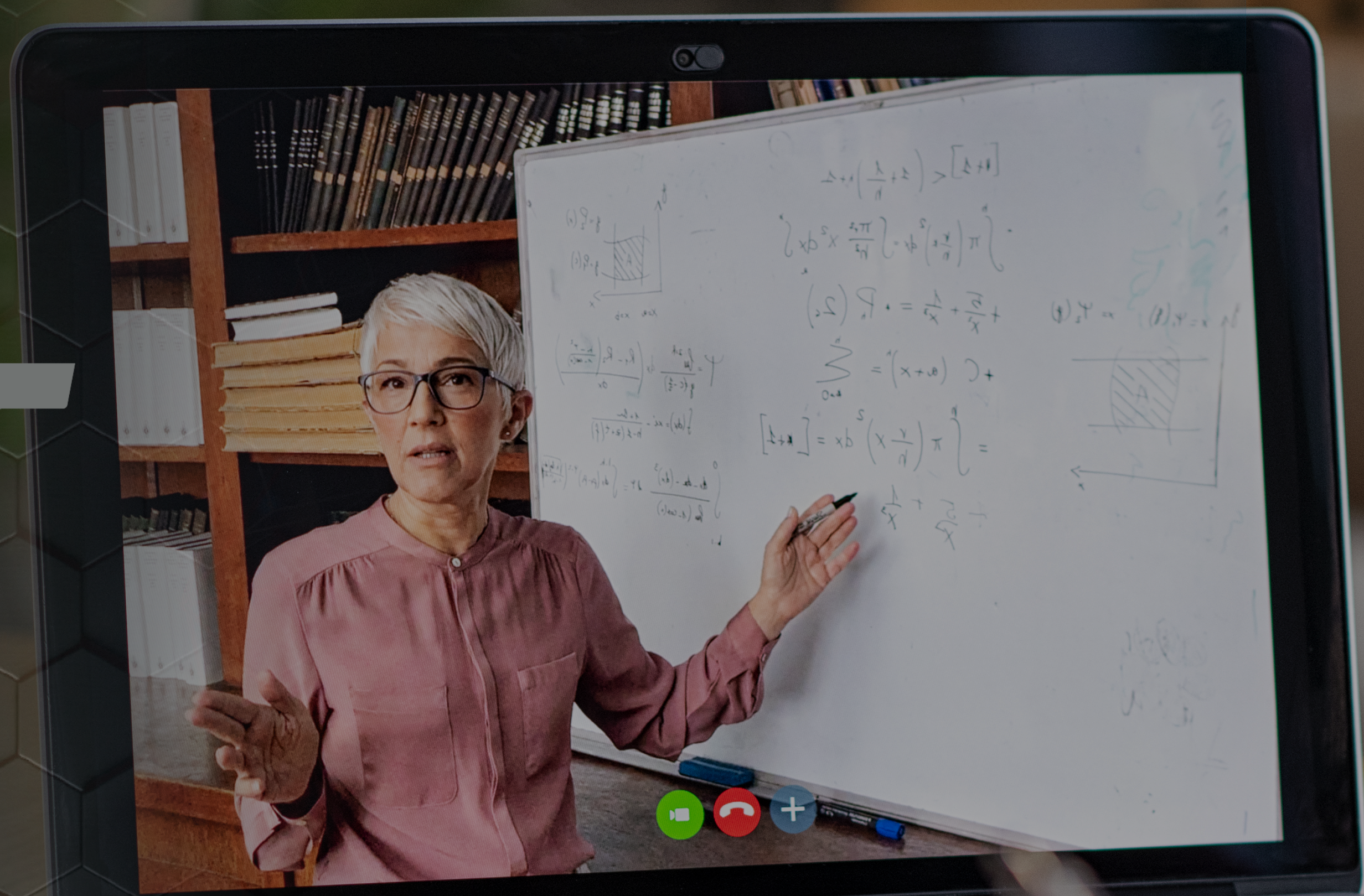




MANAGING DATA PROTECTION: GUIDE FOR EDUCATION



As education needs change, many schools are opting to migrate their infrastructure and applications into a cloud-based environment. With this migration comes new challenges, and organizations are being forced to adapt to maintain compliance when storing data within the cloud.

Because of this shift in data storage, many schools are having to reassess their backup and data protection solutions. Keeping backup targets and server replication locations in-house when so many business processes are in the cloud can become kludgy, unreliable, and costly.

Managed Service Providers are shifting their best practices as well, and many are beginning to bundle data protection, backup, and disaster recovery solutions as a service. Through their subscription-based offerings, MSPs allow businesses to leverage only the solutions they need at substantial cost savings.

Continue reading to learn more about the benefits of data protection and the different types of solutions available.



Benefits of Data Protection

Data protection is an invaluable asset to any organization, offering protection in the event of failure. It protects the critical information needed to run your school effectively, allowing a method for storage and recovery of said information. The benefits of data protection are many, but the most notable are an added layer of protection, substantial cost savings, and competitive scalability.

Safeguard Your Environment

Investing in a backup and data protection solution is like taking out an insurance policy on your critical business information. You'll be required to pay a small fee each month but will save yourself from the monumental cost of a data breach due to corruption or a complete loss of data due to failed hardware, power outages, and more.

Educational institutions rank number three after financial institutions and healthcare as a prime target for cyber criminals to obtain personal information. Cyber attacks are increasing with the trend toward remote learning. According to Microsoft Security Intelligence, the education sector accounts for 61 percent of nearly 7.7 million enterprise malware encounters.

Cost Savings

Utilizing Data Protection as a Service (DPaaS) offers substantial cost savings to schools because they are no longer responsible for hosting a secondary location for server replication and backup targets. They don't need to invest in the hardware or applications necessary to run a sufficient data protection solution, they can leverage the existing infrastructure of an MSP.

Scalability to Fit Your Needs

These services are also scalable in either direction, so as business needs change, they can easily increase or decrease backup archives, email retention, and server replication targets.

Having the ability to utilize a cloud-based solution helps to cut down on costly hardware upgrades as you grow and prevents an over-provisioned solution from remaining in place if you scale back.



Backup Support

With backup support, schools store copies of their institution's information in a separate physical location, appliance, or in the cloud. This can be done with virtual or physical servers, and backups can be used to restore an environment in the event of a failure, disaster, or corruption event.

Many backup solutions can also be used as a storage solution, offering scalable virtual repositories where information can be kept. These repositories can reside onsite at a client's location, stored within an application, at an off-site location, or within the cloud.



Disaster Recovery

A Disaster Recovery (DR) solution utilizes replication services to mirror a production environment at another location. This secondary instance of your server infrastructure is meant to be used in the wake of a disaster - whether it be a dropped network connection, failed hardware, or something more sinister, like a cybersecurity breach.

Much like backup systems, DR solutions can use target locations at physical branches, data centers, or replicate to a cloud source. However, there is much more involved in a disaster recovery solution.

Your IT team needs to spend time identifying all business processes and the applications used to run them and then assess the importance of each application. The DR solution will need to be tested at regular intervals to ensure it is functioning as intended in the event an emergency presents itself. This can prove cumbersome and time-consuming for internal IT staff.



Data Protection as a Service

Data Protection as a Service offers educational institutions the ability to restore their data more quickly than through a backup solution alone. The solution can be customized to fit specific needs, and thresholds can be set relative to backup frequencies, the types of applications being backed up, and the retention period of these backups, offering a greater level of control.

Numerous data protection options can be bundled into a DPaaS package. Whether you need a comprehensive solution that includes everything from email archiving and data retention to meet compliance guidelines, or you're just looking to set up a virtual disaster recovery site, DPaaS solutions should be on the short-list of your IT infrastructure changes.



Conclusion

Partnering with a managed service provider can help to navigate through the confusion of identifying the data protection that is right for your organization. Whether you're interested in a standard backup solution or a full-scale disaster recovery deployment, leveraging the expertise of an MSP will ensure you're making the most informed decision possible about your data protection options.

3RT Networks leverages extensive technical skills, efficient problem-solving techniques, and best-in-class customer service to help schools improve productivity and protect valuable personal data. Our team understands the value of consistent up-time and what can happen to educational institutions if the proper data protection measures are not put into place.

Contact us today to learn more.

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