



MiraLink Case Study

Medical Office Uses MiraLink for HIPAA and Disaster Recovery Solution

The Customer

Valley Women's Health Group is a 10-physician facility with 5 branch offices throughout Springfield, MA. They do not employ a full time computer systems administrator due to cost and low processing requirements at these facilities. Recently the group was required to protect patient data in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Ms. Karen Kozil, the Group's Administrator, was responsible for putting together a solution to meet the requirements set forth in this regulation.

The Challenge

HIPAA requires that medical groups back up an exact copy of all patient data in a way that is retrievable in the even of a data loss resulting from fire, vandalism, natural disaster or systems failure. The solution must also protect the data by controlling and recording who accesses the data. Additionally, Kozil needed a cost effective solution with no recurring costs that was easy to install and use without requiring additional training.

The Solution

Upon evaluation Ms. Kozil determine a MiraLink Appliance was the ideal solution. "We have five branch offices" commented Kozil, "All connected by T1 lines. Our data is sent to one Novell Netware server at our main office." This was a perfect scenario for using the MiraLink solution. The MiraLink appliance was connected directly to the server via a SCSI interface and the server was configured to mirror all data to the newly installed device. All critical data on the Novell Netware server (in Building 5, see figure below) was mirrored to the MiraLink appliance, which appeared as a standard storage device. While the server writes

Success Story

Customer Requirements:

- HIPAA Compliance
- Business Continuity
- Disaster Recovery

MiraLink appliances deliver an unprecedented level of information safety, simplicity and low cost of ownership. Optimized to perform well on low bandwidth network segments, enabling smaller enterprises and branch office locations to implement compliance and business continuity solutions.

data to the local mirror, the appliance buffers this data and sends it to a second appliance sitting in a different branch office (Building 3).

The MiraLink appliances maintain a consistent connection creating an exact copy of the data at the secondary site. In the event of a disaster, the second MiraLink appliance contains a complete up-to-date mirror of all critical data. If the primary site experiences a problem operations can continue directly from the secondary unit as if it were the primary storage. In addition, when the primary location comes back online they can use the secondary appliance to rebuild the first.

Business Benefits

The MiraLink appliance sends data over any TCP/IP link which allowed Valley Women’s Health Group to utilize the T1 lines already in place. Once installed the MiraLink appliance incur additional costs. Once installed, they didn’t require any additional maintenance. This new solution had no tapes to switch or transport. “I don’t have to worry about it,” explained Kozil. “It just does its thing.”

The MiraLink solution allowed Valley Women’s Health to meet the requirements of HIPAA with a cost effective, easy to install and use solution. They also experienced the added benefit of having a secondary site to ensure business would continue in the event of an unplanned interruption at their primary site, keeping patients on schedule. Kozil feels secure knowing that all of her data is at two locations at all times. “Our hardware vendor recommended MiraLink. “In case our main office goes down, our other offices will have access to patient data. It has absolutely taken a worry off my mind.”

