

A Real Disaster Recovery Story

Case Study: Mepkin Abbey, Trappist Monastery



CUSTOMER

Mepkin Abbey is a community of Roman Catholic monks established in 1949 on the site of the historic Mepkin Plantation located on the Cooper River, north of Charleston, South Carolina. Founded by the monks of Gethsemani in Kentucky, the brothers of Mepkin belong to the worldwide Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance popularly known as Trappist. Following The Rule of St. Benedict, the monks at Mepkin Abbey devote their lives to prayer, spiritual study, work and hospitality.

CHALLENGE

Mepkin Abbey had three network servers that were more than nine years old and “on their last leg”. Utilizing a tape backup system that frequently failed, Mepkin Abbey experienced a strain on resources allocated to manage backups. And, like many organizations, they needed a disaster recovery solution to continue to run these critical applications in the event of a server failure. After researching different solutions, Mepkin Abbey’s IT provider, Brian Heffner of Enterprise Technologies, recommended Green Cloud.

SOLUTION

Understanding Mepkin Abbey’s need for a more efficient data backup and recovery plan, Green Cloud recommended its disaster recovery and restoration solution. This solution provides a full restoration of Mepkin Abbey’s servers and operating environment located in the cloud in as little as four hours. With Green Cloud’s reliability and rapid recovery time, Mepkin Abbey found exactly what they were looking for – fast, reliable server restoration and backup.

They also found something they hadn’t considered - a server restoration and business continuity plan that Green Cloud provided at no additional cost. “The business continuity plan Green Cloud provides with their services is outstanding,” says Heffner. “This document is very valuable in preparing for the disaster BEFORE it happens.”

And disaster did strike. Within three months of deploying Green Cloud’s disaster recovery solution, a rather unusual ice storm and subsequent power outage hit the area causing one of the monastery’s physical servers to crash. Green Cloud was notified and immediately started recovering the server and configuring it to run within Green Cloud’s virtualized environment. Mepkin Abbey was fully restored and back in business in about 3.5 hours.

Green Cloud’s disaster recovery solution provides 14 days of the virtualized server environment at no additional costs. During this time, the client can choose to purchase and rebuild a physical server or remain in a virtualized server environment. Mepkin Abbey decided not to replace the physical onsite server but rather keep this server in the cloud permanently.

“Green Cloud simply does what they say they will do, when they say it will be done and they have great customer service!”

Brian Heffner
Enterprise Technologies
Mepkin Abbey’s IT provider