

# CA ARCserve® Backup Boosts Backup Speed by 10X in Virtual Environment



## Customer Profile

**Organization:** Wade Trim  
**Industry:** Engineering  
**Employees:** 350

## Business Impact Summary

### Business:

Wade Trim offers a full range of professional engineering, planning, surveying, operations and landscape architecture services to meet the infrastructure needs of government, industries and private corporations.

### Challenge:

Virtualization offers the potential for greater IT efficiency and reduced overall costs. However, in one location, the move to a virtualized environment resulted in the backup window being extended from 14 hours to 72 hours. Furthermore, the company needed to find a simple way to migrate its 14 remote sites to a virtualized platform without data loss or extended downtime.

### Solution:

Wade Trim upgraded to CA ARCserve Backup r12.5 which included a virtualization agent designed to eliminate virtual backup complexity. It also utilized CA ARCserve Backup to migrate local offices from a physical to a virtual platform.

### Result:

CA ARCserve Backup r12.5 reduced the backup window at one Wade Trim location from 72 hours to 8 hours. This represented a boost in backup throughput from 400 Mb/min to 4,000 Mb/min. CA ARCserve Backup also facilitated smooth transitions from a physical to a virtual environment at Wade Trim's many remote sites saving the company \$2,200 per remote site when compared to implementing another competitive backup offering.

## Business

### Professional Services Consultant

Wade Trim is a professional services consultant that serves the infrastructure and related needs of government, industries and private corporations. The firm's origin dates back to 1926 as a designer of roads and sewers. Wade Trim grew by designing utilities for expanding communities and then moved on to regional infrastructure systems and working with state and federal agencies and land developers. With 21 offices in 8 states, the firm provides engineering, planning, landscape architecture, operations, surveying and environmental science services. Market segments include water resources, municipal services, land development, transportation and operations services.

**“The backup window at our Tampa location, which was 14 hours prior to virtualization, mushroomed to over 72 hours.”**

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**Scott Landrum**  
Senior Network Administrator at  
Wade Trim

## Challenge

### Speeding Up Slow Backups in a Virtual Environment

Virtualization has been widely adopted because it offers a way to consolidate multiple physical servers into a handful, run multiple applications on one box, achieve greater IT efficiency and help reduce overall costs. But it is not without its downside. Virtual machines (VM) can be created so rapidly that some organizations are now suffering from virtual server sprawl – they are uncertain how many VMs they have. In addition, backups can be severely challenged. As backup software is designed for physical servers, backup processes can face significant slowdowns in the virtual world.

This was the case at Wade Trim. 14 TB of Windows data were being backed up collectively at headquarters and 14 remote offices. Two-thirds of this data resided in the datacenter on 25 Windows servers and an EMC Clariion-based SAN. These were backed up onto a Dell PowerVault TL4000 tape library. Local offices, on the other hand, typically consisted of one or two Windows servers being backed up locally onto smaller tape libraries.

When Wade Trim implemented Windows Hyper-V to gain the benefits of virtualization, however, it suffered substantial backup delays.

“The backup window at our Tampa location, which was 14 hours prior to virtualization, mushroomed to over 72 hours,” said Scott Landrum, Senior Network Administrator at Wade Trim. “Backup throughput dropped from 2,000 Mb/minute to 400 Mb/min.”

In addition, the company needed to find a simple way to migrate its remote sites to a virtualized platform without data loss or extended downtime.

**“CA ARCserve Backup r12.5 reduced our backup window in Tampa from 72 hours to only eight hours.”**

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**Scott Landrum**  
Senior Network Administrator at  
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## Solution

### Facilitating Rapid Virtual Backups

Wade Trim has been a CA ARCserve Backup customer for nearly a decade and has always been satisfied with the product. However, recent virtualization-related backup challenges led the company to investigate several possible alternatives. Moving to VMware ESX Server and VMware Consolidated Backup, for example, was ruled out almost immediately as it would have required the use of heavy scripting, as well as a complete shift in their preferred virtualization platform. Another option considered was Backup Exec. However, this proved to be much more expensive than an upgrade to CA ARCserve Backup r12.5.

“Backup Exec worked out at \$3,000 per location compared to \$800 per location with CA ARCserve,” said Landrum. “Further, we have always been happy with CA ARCserve and we didn’t see any reason to retool our entire backup fabric. By sticking with CA and opting for the new ARCserve suite, the cost of the software has actually come down.”

The organization, therefore, implemented CA ARCserve Backup r12.5 and its new virtualization agent in order to eliminate backup complexity, and also used the product as a core component in the migration of their remote offices from a physical to a virtual platform.

## Result

### Superfast Backups, Easy Migrations Using ARCserve

By instituting CA ARCserve Backup as the foundation of its backup environment, Wade Trim has realized a wealth of gains. The extended backup window issue, for instance, has been resolved.

“CA ARCserve Backup r12.5 reduced our backup window in Tampa from 72 hours to only eight hours,” said Landrum. “This represented a boost in backup throughput from 400 Mb/min to 4,000 Mb/min, which is twice what we experienced prior to virtualization.”

In addition to saving the company \$2,200 per remote site, CA ARCserve Backup facilitated an easy transition from a physical to a virtual environment for Wade Trim. Instead of IT staff spending weeks rearchitecting its entire infrastructure, IT staff can deal with a couple of remote locations per weekend.

“The project was uniquely complicated by the fact that in each location we were performing a physical to virtual conversion of their primary production file server. By using CA ARCserve for both pre and post conversion tasks, we were able to completely preserve our backout strategy and quite literally restored our production data while we all slept,” according to Landrum.

“We are now three quarters of the way through the virtualization transition and enterprise users haven’t even noticed we are doing it,” said Landrum.

Looking forward, Wade Trim is planning to add further CA-based functionality to its IT arsenal.

“Once we are through with our virtualization initiative, we plan on investigating other capabilities such as CA XOssoft Replication,” said Landrum. “In addition, we will begin to reduce our overall backup and storage requirements with CA ARCserve Backup’s built in deduplication capabilities.”

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**Scott Landrum**  
Senior Network Administrator at  
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To learn more about how your company can benefit from CA ARCserve Backup, visit [ARCserve.com/ARCserve](http://ARCserve.com/ARCserve).

