

Customer Success

“FalconStor CDP is a great solution. We enjoy its flexibility, and we are very happy with it.”

— Dan Higley, Information Systems Engineer,
Florida Blood Services



Overview

Florida Blood Services is one of the largest independent blood banks in the U.S., specializing in testing for other regional banks from Rhode Island to Puerto Rico. The organization has nearly 30 blood collection centers throughout Florida and in the southern portions of Georgia and Alabama, and distributes blood products to area hospitals. Florida Blood Services has grown in recent years, merging with smaller blood banks and filling a need in areas not served by the American Red Cross.

When multiple, strong hurricanes hit Florida several years ago, Florida Blood Services decided to implement a disaster recovery (DR) strategy, setting up a DR site 40 miles from the headquarters. The organization needed a way to replicate data to that site and make it accessible for quick and easy restores.

Objectives

- **Implement a DR solution without affecting system performance or productivity**
- **Protect existing storage and network investments**
- **Find a solution that could scale with the company's increasing data storage and protection needs**

Solution

Florida Blood Services considered several products to protect the data on its HP Tru64 UNIX system, which runs critical blood donor information services applications. The company ultimately chose the FalconStor[®] Continuous Data Protector (CDP) solution, which met all of its objectives. Although HP has discontinued the system, the open architecture of FalconStor CDP enables Florida Blood Services to leverage the existing infrastructure while providing flexibility to support other systems.

The organization uses FalconStor CDP for data replication and mirroring of its application data. FalconStor CDP takes a data snapshot every 15 minutes and replicates to the DR site every 10 minutes. The system currently stores 900GB of data; a number that will increase as the company grows and the solution scales accordingly.

Benefits

- **Daily snapshots of the production database provide exact copies of production environments for testing and restoration in the training environment**
- **Open platform and flexibility provides backup and DR of critical blood donor information on older server hardware**
- **Application data is protected on the FalconStor CDP server, without impacting CPU or performance of the primary application server**