

A leading private Christian university, **Harding University** serves more than 7,000 students through a wide array of undergraduate, graduate, pre-professional, and professional programs. To protect its confidential employee, donor, and student data, Harding sought a reliable, easy-to-manage laptop encryption solution with superior data recovery options. After carefully considering four alternatives, its choice was clear: Sophos SafeGuard Encryption.

Customer-at-a-Glance

Harding University
Searcy, Arkansas

Industry
Education

Sophos Solutions
Sophos SafeGuard Encryption



"We chose to pay for Sophos encryption because of its better administration and data recovery options, even though we have free access to BitLocker via our Microsoft Campus Licensing Agreement."

JAMES BAIRD, Client Support & Consulting, Harding University

Business Challenge

Harding University must secure data ranging from payroll and private employee information to donor records, while strictly following the student privacy rules of the U.S. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Recognizing the risk of data loss from lost or stolen laptops, Harding decided to implement full-disk encryption. With only five help desk personnel supporting 850 employees, it needed an easy-to-administer solution that would fit smoothly into its Active Directory environment.

Technology Solution

Harding evaluated four potential solutions: Symantec Whole Disk Encryption (formerly PGP), TrueCrypt, Microsoft BitLocker, and Sophos SafeGuard Encryption. According to James Baird, Client Support & Consulting, "We chose to pay for Sophos encryption because of its better administration and data recovery options, even though we have free access to BitLocker via our Microsoft Campus Licensing Agreement. In particular, we found Sophos different from other solutions in that it recognizes Active Directory domain credentials and has tools that securely allow IT employees to recover files from a crippled drive."

Business Benefit

Sophos SafeGuard's key management tools make it easier to provide access to data in emergencies, and to enforce web-based lockouts of lost systems. Going forward, SafeGuard gives the university many new options. For example, it could decide to refine its standard encryption policies for diverse groups of administrators or faculty; to encrypt external storage devices; or to extend Sophos encryption to its Mac laptops — administering them through the SafeGuard Management Center they already use.

Find out how we can help protect your organization.

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