

Case Study



Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative maximizes storage performance and efficiency using NTP Software storage management solution

Company:

Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative

Problem:

System performance being jeopardized because of continual administrative hours being spent on storage maintenance

Solution:

The management of users by policy, the monitoring of storage use, and the notification process provided by NTP Software QFS™, Standard Edition.

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Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative has been providing state-of-the-art communication services to western Montanans since 1954. Headquartered in Missoula, Montana, Blackfoot offers a full array of personal and business communication options that include local telephone service, high-speed internet service, communications systems, long distance and wireless digital PCS. Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative has been using NTP Software QFS™, Standard Edition for five years and oversees the storage management of 189 employees that serve 15,000 customers. The initial reason for purchasing NTP Software QFS™ was that Mike Hanson, Network Administrator at Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative had a file server that was consistently running out of disk space. He explains, "I would upgrade the drives on the server a couple times a year to try to keep up but, it was taking several hours per week to keep up on the maintenance. The amount of data that was being pushed to the server was far outpacing our IT budget."

Prior to implementing NTP Software QFS™, Standard Edition, Hanson was faced with the problem of running out of disk space on a regular basis that would result in a lock-up on all end users at least once a week. He realized this was not only affecting employee productivity but affected Blackfoot customers as well. He knew this was unacceptable and acted quickly by purchasing NTP Software QFS™, Standard Edition. Once QFS was implemented and policies were established, the server locks quit. "The reason for this of course, is the server no longer ran out of space. I would definitely recommend NTP Software QFS™, Standard Edition to anyone in a similar situation," says Hanson. QFS allowed Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative the ability to put quotas on the size of each part of the directory tree. This enabled the company to easily manage the growth of the server. Here are just some of the benefits that Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative received by using NTP Software QFS™, Standard Edition:

- ?? Controls quantity and content of files with user-based policies
- ?? Improves end-user experience automatically communicating and enforcing storage policies
- ?? Creates policies for prohibiting, auditing, or limiting access to any specified file type

" NTP Software QFS™ is an extremely valuable product. Without it I'd be spending hours each week cleaning up useless data. Once the product was set up it required very little administrator intervention. I would definitely recommend NTP Software QFS™ to anyone in a similar situation."

Mike Hanson
Network Administrator
Blackfoot Telephone Coop.