

***Gonzaga University is a private, four-year comprehensive university located in Spokane, Washington. Gonzaga was founded in 1887, and enrolls about 5,400 students in 92 undergraduate and 21 graduate programs. The Gonzaga School of Law is one of three in the state of Washington and supports a number of programs and institutes involving both faculty and students. The school has over 125 faculty and 600 students in attendance.***

#### SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

With over 600 students actively enrolled and 125 faculty and staff working in the School of Law, the Gonzaga IT Department is under constant pressure to maintain their systems and ensure that critical data gets backed up on a daily basis. John Weingarten, Computer Services Manager for the Gonzaga Law School, is responsible for overseeing their backup strategy and ensuring that this data is adequately backed up each night between the hours of 12AM-6AM. With such a small backup window, it became increasingly difficult to backup all of their critical data each night.

The problem for Gonzaga was that their current backup method was riddled with problems and needed constant work adjustments and creativity to effectively backup their data. Gonzaga Law School was using LTO and Veritas Backup Exec 9.1 to backup their critical systems. "The problems were the speed and capacity limitations of LTO tape to backup our data," said Mr. Weingarten.

"We only had 6 hours each night to run a backup and we were forced to get creative to make our LTO work within this backup window." This meant having to run incremental backups each night and having to start their backups before midnight when the Law School was still open and finish the backups in the morning when students, staff and faculty were already using their systems. Mr. Weingarten was tasked with finding alternatives to solve the issue of fully backing up their data during this small backup window. The option he was leaning toward was another method of tape backup that was supposedly the next generation and faster method of tape backup. The main issue with this solution was that it was tape that got him into this situation in the first place and replacing his system with a similar system just did seem like a logical option. John needed a cost effective solution that could quickly backup his data and allow him to use his existing software and infrastructure.

***Case Closed!  
Idealstor Beats  
LTO Head to  
Head at Gonzaga  
Law School***



## THE SOLUTION

The final decision for the backup needs of Gonzaga University's School of Law was to implement the Idealstor 2 Bay Backup Appliance. Mr. Weingarten installed the 2 Bay and implemented an offsite rotation that incorporated the use of 300GB IDE drives. The 2 Bay provided him a native capacity of 600GB, which easily allowed him to backup all of his critical data. John was able to connect the 2 Bay to his existing network via GB Ethernet without having to make any other changes. Mr. Weingarten immediately saw speed increases over his previous method of backing up using LTO tapes. "When I did a side-by-side comparison of Idealstor and LTO, it was no contest. Idealstor allowed me to use my existing backup software and backup over Gigabit Ethernet with speeds averaging up to 1GB/minute. That meant that my backup window was no longer an issue and I could even start running full backups each night." Mr. Weingarten went on to say, "Idealstor also offered me the ability to remove hard drives and take them offsite so we could continue to take our critical data to an offsite location and comply with our existing offsite data retention requirements. Because of the speed increases provided by the Idealstor solution, Gonzaga University Law School now completes a full backup of all their data each night. The 2 Bay enables them to even run two simultaneous backups to each drive. This will allow them to even shorten their time to backup even as the amount of data they are backing up continues to grow.

Idealstor addressed all of the requirements identified by Gonzaga:

- **Faster Backups** - Backing up to disk allows Gonzaga to backup all of their critical data within their small backup window. This includes being able to run full backups each night instead of incremental backups.
- **Cost Effective Solution** - The 2 Bay solution provides them with the functional equivalent to a 1 TB tape library but at a price that is a fraction of the price of an expensive tape library.
- **Investment Protection** - Gonzaga is able to maintain their current investment in backup software and equipment by not having to make any changes to the way their network is set up and without having to purchase any additional backup software or licenses.

