

CASE STUDY

# Girl Scouts San Diego

How to save money by replacing daily LTO tape backups with B2 Cloud Storage.

It was late and Guy wanted to go home. He was in the middle of his mostly quarterly ritual of mounting and reading back random tapes from his ever growing collection of LTO backup tapes. Select a tape, read the index, select a file or two to restore, wait for the tape drive to find and restore the files, then repeat for another tape. Over the years he had trouble restoring from a tape from time-to-time, but he was always able to work around the problem. "Tape Read Error", Guy's night just got longer.

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Using tape for backup just doesn't scale for us, and besides tape is a giant pain in the butt.

- Guy Fisher



Guy Fisher is the Windows Server Administrator for Girls Scouts San Diego. Founded in Coronado, Girl Scouts San Diego has been helping girls develop valuable life and leadership skills since 1917. Guy has been with Girl Scouts San Diego for the nearly 8 years, and has been leading the charge in having the organization utilize technology to keep costs down in their ever changing environment.

When Guy first joined the Girl Scouts San Diego one tape drive was sufficient to back up the organization's data. Over the years, the amount of data generated and kept by Girl Scouts San Diego increased rapidly, more than doubling over the past couple of years alone.

Their environment is a mix of virtual and non-virtualized systems and servers. They use Veeam to back up their environment throughout the day, processing 12-15 terabytes of data each day. At the end of each day, the daily incremental changes are extracted and stored on a Windows server dedicated for data backup. This process produces about 15 gigabytes of new data each day. This daily incremental dataset is then copied to LTO tape for backup purposes and eventual off-site storage. Weekly, monthly, and yearly incremental backups are done the same way.

Guy believed he could save money by replacing his LTO system with cloud storage. To test his theory, he started with the daily incremental backups. At first he just mirrored the LTO process, sending daily incremental files to both tape and to Backblaze B2 via the CloudBerry Windows Server Backup application. He did this for a few weeks and randomly compared the data from the two different backups – the data was identical. During the testing phase, Guy discovered:

- When he penciled it out, he determined he could store a year's worth of daily incremental files (6 terabytes) for just \$30/month with Backblaze. That was less than he paid each month to store his daily incremental tapes off-site.
- With the Backblaze/CloudBerry solution Guy didn't have to label, mount or swap out the daily incremental tapes. And the process of testing backup tapes was dramatically reduced.
- The Backblaze/CloudBerry solution meant he now had completely automated the entire data backup process for his daily incremental files.

When the testing period was over the choice was easy, he stopped backing up his daily incremental files to LTO and used B2.

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My boss didn't believe how little  
the bill from Backblaze was given  
all the data we had stored.

- Guy Fisher



### About Backblaze B2 Cloud Storage

Backblaze B2 Cloud Storage is a cloud storage solution that provides data storage at one-fourth the cost of leading cloud storage providers: \$0.005 GB/month for storage, free uploads, and \$0.05 (\$/GB) for downloads. Things to know about B2:

- Upload and download data using a Web GUI, API, or CLI.
- Stored data is instantly available. There are no offline or near-line delays.
- There are no pricing tiers for data storage, it is simply \$0.005 per GB per month.
- Data durability is 99.999999% and availability is covered by an SLA.
- Robust documentation, including guides and examples in curl, Java, C#, Python Swift and Ruby.

[www.backblaze.com/b2](http://www.backblaze.com/b2)