

CASE STUDY • STORAGE

A storage server built to *survive a bad day.*

A representative build: what a growing non-profit needed when its shared drive ran out of room and redundancy, and what they got.

Representative case study. Details are generalized; specifics vary by environment.

80 TB usable

Deployed

Two-disk failure

Survives

Documented

Handover

THE SITUATION

One drive from a bad week

Years of files on a single aging drive, nearly full, with no redundancy and no tested backup.

The signs were familiar. The shared drive was almost full. Nobody was sure the nightly copy still ran. Staff had started keeping their own copies, so there was no longer one source of truth. A single disk failure would have taken out the file share, and maybe the only copy of records that cannot be replaced.

What they needed

- Room to grow for years, not months.
- To survive a disk failure without downtime or loss.
- A backup that is tested, not assumed.
- Documentation, so it does not live in one person's head.

THE BUILD

Built for recovery

Capacity is easy. Recovery is the part that matters on the worst day.

We built the storage to survive two disks failing at once, with a spare ready to take over automatically. Usable capacity landed at 80 TB, with room to grow.

LAYER	WHAT IT DOES
Storage	Survives a two-disk failure, with a hot spare on standby
Access	Shares mapped to roles, not individuals
Backup	Automated, off-box, and restored on a schedule to prove it works
Power	UPS protection with a clean shutdown on an outage
Monitoring	Alerts on disk health and capacity before they become outages

The test that counts. Before handover we pulled a drive on purpose, confirmed the array kept serving files, and restored a sample set end to end. A backup you have never restored is a hope.

THE OUTCOME

What they kept

The runbook

- How the storage is laid out and how to replace a failed disk
- Where backups go and how to run a restore
- Who has access, and why
- What each alert means and who to call

The result

- 80 TB usable, surviving a two-disk failure
- Backups tested, not assumed
- One source of truth again
- A system any competent team could pick up

Why documentation ships with every build. If a client ever wants to move on, they can. Systems built to be handed over are systems built honestly.

Talk to us

If your storage is one drive from a bad week, email info@makingitworc.ca.