

Customer Profile

Founded in 1892, Central Michigan University (CMU) is a nationally renowned doctoral and research institution, and is the largest university authorizer of charter public schools in the United States. CMU established The Center for Charter Schools in 1994 and began issuing performance based contracts – termed ‘charters’. Charters are new, innovative public schools whose primary mission is to improve the academic achievement of the students they serve. The Center is responsible for overseeing the schools chartered by CMU and ensures that they fulfill their contractual performance goals and their obligation to comply with applicable law and regulation. Located in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, the Center is staffed with experts in governance and management, fiscal stewardship, and - most importantly - in teaching and learning. The Center has earned a gold standard reputation for its work and serves as a valued resource and trusted steward for the charter school sector.

The Challenge

In 2000, The Center for Charters at CMU recognized the need for an integrated system to automate their compliance process and provide centralized access to the documents they maintained. Because the Center serves as steward for all the operational documents for each school chartered by CMU, it needed a unified platform upon which to collaborate effectively, store digital assets efficiently, and maintain industry-compliant audit histories.

Due to an ever-growing volume of electronic data, the Center needed a system that would be easily scalable. At the time, the Center maintained records for over 58 schools, each with a 10-year paper trail. The Center’s management anticipated this volume – some 25GB worth of records - to grow aggressively in the coming years, and wanted a platform flexible and powerful enough to grow with it.

To design and build the platform, the Center retained Corporate Computer, Inc., a Michigan-based provider of hosting services, software development expertise, and technology support. Corporate Computer had extensive experience in the creation of information management systems for the education industry, and was tasked with both designing and deploying a system to meet the Center’s needs. After analyzing the Center’s stated objectives, Corporate Computer recommended the development of a proprietary platform, built upon a Microsoft SharePoint architecture, and wrapped in a custom interface optimized for the Center’s needs.

“AvePoint sales and support were very responsive.”

David Schroeter – Senior Analyst, Corporate Computer Inc.



Customer Location

Mt. Pleasant, MI

Industry

Education

Platform

Microsoft SharePoint Portal Server 2001, Microsoft SharePoint Portal Server 2003, Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007 (MOSS)

Critical Needs

A tool to reliably migrate full-fidelity content from SPS 2001 to MOSS, with comprehensive scheduling and reporting functionalities

AvePoint Solution

DocAve SharePoint Migrator

Results

- Hassle-free migration of over 45GB of SharePoint data into MOSS, with no metadata loss
- Drastically reduced time and resources required for upgrade to MOSS

The proprietary platform would utilize Windows SharePoint Portal Server 2001 (SPS 2001) as its document repository and ‘data librarian’, and have the ability to deliver content - via a customized, web-based interface - to end-users anywhere in the world. In order to unburden the Center of excessive digital storage and management costs, the organization’s digital assets would reside in one of Corporate Computer’s secure data centers, and remain fully accessible by Center staff within a maximum of three seconds, regardless of file size.

Corporate Computer and The Center worked over the next several months to design and deploy the new system. What evolved from this collaboration was a ‘best of breed’ tool for authorizing agencies of all stripes to manage their operations. The platform, now known as *AOIS* (Authorizer’s Oversight Information System) is today one of the most popular, potent, and flexible solutions of its kind. AOIS is currently being utilized by over a dozen authorizing organizations worldwide, and manages compliance protocols for over 400 charter schools nationwide.

In late 2005, the Center decided to migrate AOIS’ underlying repository from SPS 2001 to SharePoint Portal Server 2003 (SPS 2003), in order to take advantage of the new release’s expanded collaboration and versioning abilities. Initially, Corporate Computer technicians attempted the migration on their development servers using Microsoft’s native tools. Immediately, they began running into problems.

“The Microsoft tools just didn’t work”, said David Schroeter, senior analyst at Corporate Computer. “It would run for 30 hours or more, then just fail. It was very frustrating.”

Because of these difficulties, and knowing of no other available solutions, Corporate Computer decided to forego the migration, and instead leveraged SPS 2003 functionality via a backwards-compatible database configuration.

When Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007 (MOSS) was released in 2007, Corporate Computer recognized its impressive capabilities and decided to upgrade the Center’s AOIS deployment to the new platform. By this time, CMU had chartered 60 schools and had over 45GB worth of mission-critical data residing in its database, along with vital associated metadata and permissions attributes. After their migraine-inducing migration attempt in 2005, Corporate Computer knew they could not rely on Microsoft tools to perform the migration. They needed a better solution.

The AvePoint Solution

Corporate Computer and the CMU Center for Charters needed a stable and reliable solution to move their over 45GB of data from SPS 2001 into MOSS.

“Without your software, we probably wouldn’t have even attempted the migration. I just would have gotten a job at Taco Bell or something.”

Because of the content-access demands of The Center's staff during production hours, they also needed the ability to phase and schedule the migration. And most importantly, they needed a migration solution that preserved all metadata and maintained all associated permissions.

After investigating the products available on the market and talking to industry colleagues, Corporate Computer decided to test *DocAve SharePoint Migrator* because of its reputed speed and reliability, its robust abilities to schedule and track migration jobs, and its minimal disruption to the existing IT infrastructure. Corporate Computer downloaded a fully-enabled trial version of the software from the AvePoint website, and – following a test migration of 5000 documents, conducted on their development servers – deployed *DocAve SharePoint Migrator*. According to Corporate Computer administrators, the installation was simple, straightforward, and hassle-free. “The DocAve install was easy and intuitive,” said Schroeter, “which was a pleasant change from the typical enterprise software install.”

With DocAve deployed, Corporate Computer attempted a full migration in its development environment. This test migration executed flawlessly, so administrators proceeded to migrate their production environment. In order to mitigate end-user disruption, Corporate Computer used DocAve to schedule a series of automated migration jobs, and subsequently executed the full migration in 55 hours, spread over three days.

Throughout the migration process, Corporate Computer administrators regularly contacted the AvePoint 24x7 Live Support Team for guidance. In every instance, AvePoint provided prompt and effective assistance.

“We were conducting an extremely complex migration”, said Schroeter. “Every time I reached out for assistance, I received very fast responses.”

At one point during the testing phase, administrators determined that they required a small customization to DocAve to execute the migration exactly as they wished. Corporate Computer contacted AvePoint Support, and within 24-hours AvePoint delivered the required patch. “They were able to write a custom program that fit my needs perfectly”, said Schroeter. “I was able to shave over 10 hours from my migration work-load by having this patch, which was great.”

The Bottom Line

Using *DocAve SharePoint Migrator*, Corporate Computer was able to migrate the Center's SharePoint/AOIS content with confidence and precision. Following a hassle-free installation, both testing and production migrations were executed efficiently – with zero loss or corruption of metadata.

Throughout the process, the AvePoint Support Team delivered prompt, personalized service, and worked hand-in-hand with Corporate Computer to ensure the migration was a success.

Going forward, CMU and Corporate Computer have exciting plans for its groundbreaking AOIS software. They plan on making additional improvements, including potentially writing the entire AOIS front-end

About AvePoint

Since 2001, AvePoint has been a global leader in enterprise-strength infrastructure management software solutions for all Microsoft SharePoint Products and Technologies. Propelled by one of the world's largest SharePoint-exclusive development teams outside of Microsoft, AvePoint's award-winning DocAve software delivers comprehensive and flexible infrastructure support for backup and recovery, replication, migration, administration, archiving and compliance solutions for Microsoft SharePoint.

AvePoint's globally recognized pioneering technology pilots the products of OEM partners such as NetApp and IBM. Headquartered in Jersey City, NJ, AvePoint serves over 3000 enterprise customers, including many Fortune-500 companies, across 6 continents, via offices in Jersey City, San Jose, Chicago, Washington D.C., USA; London, UK; Melbourne, Australia; Tokyo, Japan, and Changchun, Dalian, China. AvePoint is a Managed Gold Certified Microsoft Partner and GSA Certified Provider.

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directly in MOSS. Throughout this evolution, Corporate Computer will always look first to AvePoint for their ongoing SharePoint migration and infrastructure management needs.

“From now on, I will definitely look to AvePoint first. Without your software, we probably wouldn’t have even attempted the migration. I just would have gotten a job at Taco Bell or something”, Schroeter concluded with a chuckle.